ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1

Two queens and a king should a hit series make; direk on pins and needles

NEWS / A2

SC gives Ombudsman 45 days to finish Comelec probe

NEWS / A16

No classes in all levels in Metro and five other regions

NEWS/ A16

Strong rains cause 8 landslides in Baguio; 2 missing

Bombay picks up pieces after bombings kill 190

BOMBAY, INDIA—INDIAN INVESTIGATORS ON Wednesday combed through the twisted and torn wreckage of train cars ripped apart a day earlier by well-coordinated bombings that killed 190 people and wounded hundreds during the city's evening rush hour.

The eight bombs tore through packed trains, stunning the bustling port city of Bombay (Mumbai) that embodies India's global ambitions and

BOMBAY/ A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, July 13, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 215 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Vanuatu happiest place on Earth; RP ranks 17

LONDON—THE TINY South Pacific Ocean archipelago of Vanuatu is the happiest country on Earth, according to a study that measures quality of life against environmental impact. Among 178 nations,

VANUATU/ A4

SIMPLENG BUHAY, MAS MASAYA!

US jails GMA point man

Ex-Agri Undersecretary Bolante's extradition urged

KEY TO P1-B FERTILIZER SCAM: In a California jail for the past six days, Bolante has to pay bail of $100,000 for his temporary release. PDI PHOTO

By TJ Burgonio and Nikko Dizon

CALLS FOR EXTRADITION WERE AIRED YESTERDAY AS news broke that the former agriculture undersecretary embroiled in the P728-million fertilizer fund scam had been arrested on visa matters in the United States.

Senate President Franklin Drilon called on the government to seek the extradition of Jocelyn "Jocjoc" Bolante, who had defied summonses from the chamber for months and whom it subsequently ordered arrested last year.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who was en route to the Philippines from Spain when reached by the INQUIRER, offered a similar view: "[Bolante] probably violated US laws. No matter, we need him here to put a closure to the fertilizer scam."

"Good development," Pimentel added in a text message, referring to Bolante's arrest. "It gives him a chance to clarify where the over P1 billion in fertilizer money for the farmers went, and who benefited from it."

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the Senate committee that looked into the fund scam, also said the government should seek Bolante's extradition so he could face investigation before the Ombudsman.

"But I don't know if [it has] the will," Magsaysay said in a phone interview.

US JAILS/ A6

OPLAN TRIDENT

'Magdalo plotted special operation vs 20 Arroyo allies'

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Luigi A. del Puerto

"OPERATION PLAN TRIDENT," allegedly the latest plot by rebel soldiers to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo was supposed to target 20 allies of the President.

The Army and Philippine National Police spokespersons yesterday said the plot, named after a three-pronged spear associated with the Greek god of the sea, Poseidon, was exposed in documents seized following the capture on July 7 of six renegade soldiers in a safe house near the Batasang Pambansa complex that they were supposed to storm and where they would seize lawmakers as hostages in a bid to oust Ms Arroyo.

A document released to reporters said one of the objectives of the operation was to embarrass Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., the Army chief and incoming chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, among other well-known personalities in the Arroyo administration.

Esperon, who had served as chief of the Presidential Security Group, was one of four generals implicated in the "Hello Garci" wiretaps that the opposition said were evidence Ms Arroyo stole the May 2004 presidential election.

MAGDALO/ A4

Senga's defense lost in translation

By Christine O. Avendaño

"NOBODY CAN *HAWAK* ME."

Which does not translate to the outgoing Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga as "untouchable" but to "no one has a hold on me."

Thus did Senga defend himself after a military panel probing the Feb. 24 coup attempt alleged that he waited two hours before calling an emergency meeting of the service commanders after learning about the plot.

The military report does not say if Senga immediately alerted Ms Arroyo to the planned withdrawal of support of the Scout Rangers, Marines and the Special Action Forces on Feb. 24.

Senga, who was the guest of honor at the turnover of command of Col. Romeo Prestoza as the

SENGA'S/ A3

STORM-TOSSED LIFE

Florita's fury drives the homeless like Jacky Obarco to seek warmth and shelter with her children Jon Louie, 3, and Nano, 1, and their pet cat and dog beside a wall near the Manila Yacht Club on Roxas Boulevard. EDWIN BACASMAS

Vidal, 2 bishops spurned Pagcor cash

By Christian V. Esguerra

LEADERS OF THE INFLUENTIAL Roman Catholic hierarchy in the Philippines are no strangers to the Arroyo administration's generosity, if documents from the state-run Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) are any indication.

In September 2005, Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Archbishops Angel Lagdameo and Paciano Aniceto were each offered cash donations of between P300,000 and P500,000. All three refused the "financial assistance," according to copies of the documents obtained by the INQUIRER from a Pagcor insider who asked not to be named for security reasons.

Stamped on each check voucher was the word "cancelled," meaning, the insider explained, the amounts did not reach the intended recipients.

The cash donations were many times higher than the amount contained in envelopes that supposed messengers of Malacañang tried to distribute to members of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines during their plenary assembly in Manila last weekend.

VIDAL/ A4

HAIL TO THE CHIEFS: The Commander in Chief looks up to the incoming AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon who replaces Gen. Generoso Senga (left) on July 21. LYN RILLON

PREMIUM ON LOYALTY

Esperon next AFP chief of staff; Lapus new education secretary

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

UNSWERVING LOYALTY HAS BEcome the overriding factor in President Macapagal-Arroyo's choices for sensitive military and Malacañang posts after fending off a Cabinet mutiny and quashing a leftist-rightist coup attempt in the last 12 months.

"Loyalty has a very high premium," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita after the announcement the President had named Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon as the next chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus as the new education secretary.

"I can only surmise that the framers of Constitution know that in the choice of Cabinet members, the Armed Forces and the police, the President [has] the sole prerogative to choose because that it is absolutely critical," Ermita said.

"As in the military, the commander alone is responsible for the accomplishment of her objectives so she has to choose people who could help her," he said.

Upon his appointment as Army chief last year, Esperon had already been touted to be the most likely successor of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga because of the instrumental role he played in the President's victory in the 2004 elections as claimed by opposition who cited the "Hello Garci" tape as basis.

Esperon, who previously headed Ms Arroyo's Presidential Security Group, was mentioned by former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano in his wiretapped conversation with the President.

Lapus is one of Ms Arroyo's staunchest defenders in the House of Representatives. Ermita has openly credited Lapus for "nurturing" the passage of the fiscal reform package in the House last year.

"The President is looking at their track record ... she did not think twice in recruiting them," Ermita said.

He denied that the President made loyalty her most desired virtue among her men in reaction to the sudden resignation of her most trusted Cabinet secretaries and government executives—collectively known as the Hyatt 10—on July 8, 2005.

Their move heightened calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

"We hardly consider them as a

ESPERON/ A4

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience rains with gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of Luzon and Western Visayas will experience monsoon rains. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/07/12/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Stormy	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Stormy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Stormy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

New SC deadline for Ombudsman

By Armand N. Nocum and Nelson F. Flores

THE SUPREME COURT WANTS the Office of the Ombudsman to finally determine in 45 days whether there is a strong ground to pursue the impeachment and graft charges against officials of the Commissions on Elections involved in the anomalous P1.3-billion poll automation deal.

In a four-page resolution, the high tribunal gave the Office of the Ombudsman a "non-extendible period of 45 days from June 30, 2006 or until Aug. 14, 2006, within which to comply fully with the May 3, 2006 resolution of the court."

Last May 3, the high court ordered the Ombudsman to make "its final determination whether probable cause exists against any of the public officials involved" in the Mega-Pacific computerization deal by June 30.

The SC voided the poll automation deal in January 2004, saying the Comelec had disregarded the law and its bidding procedures when it awarded the project to Mega Pacific.

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez beat the June 30 deadline but singled out Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra as being liable for allowing Mega Pacific to take part in the bidding for the project.

Gutierrez also ordered the dismissal of five middle-level Comelec officials and members of the poll body's bids and awards committee which authorized the purchase of the automated counting machines from Mega Pacific.

But the Ombudsman was silent on Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and retired Commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco, Rufino Javier, Ralph Lantion and Mehol Sadain and current Commissioner Florencio Tuason Jr. who approved the contract on April 15, 2003.

In its July 11 resolution, the high court said the Ombudsman only "partially complied" with the court's order.

The Ombudsman, however, said that since Gutierrez only assumed her post last Dec. 1, she needed more time to make a "complete determination of the existence or non-existence of probable cause."

Starting today, the Ombudsman will start a weekly public hearing on the controversial poll contract.

The hearing will start at 10 a.m. at the CCB Conference Room of the Office of the Ombudsman. Members of the media will be invited to witness the proceedings. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

SOLDIERS CRY, TOO
Parting brings tears to the eyes of Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit as he bids goodbye to his men at the emotional turnover of command of the Presidential Security Group at the PSG compound in Malacanang. He has been assigned as assistant division commander of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division in Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal. His replacement as PSG chief is Air Force Col. Romeo Prestoza (above). LYN RILLON

Panel sought impeachment of Abalos et al

By Norman Bordadora

A PANEL THAT PROBED THE LIABILITY of Commission on Elections officials in the anomalous P1.3 billion poll automation deal had recommended in 2005 the impeachment of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and all Comelec commissioners, except Commissioner Rufino Javier.

The four-man panel, formed by then Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo in 2004 and headed by Director Joaquin Salazar, submitted its findings to then Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Victor Fernandez for approval on June 23, 2005.

"With regard to the liability of the Comelec chairman and commissioners, this Office finds that probable cause exists for charging them with a violation of Section 3 (e) (of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act)," read a copy of the panel resolution left unsigned since it was submitted in 2005.

A copy of the document was furnished the INQUIRER by former Senate President Jovito Salonga in the wake of the June 30 resolution signed by Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez that recommended the impeachment of Commissioner Resureccion Borra and other Comelec officials.

A spokesperson for the Office of the Ombudsman said that Abalos and the other Comelec commissioners are "still the subject of further investigation."

Salonga's Kilosbayan organization was among those that filed corruption and plunder charges against the Comelec officials after the Supreme Court voided the poll automation deal with Mega Pacific consortium in January 2004.

None of the panel's members signed the Gutierrez resolution which was meant to beat the June 30 deadline set by the Supreme Court for the Ombudsman to resolve the case.

"This shows there is an internal strife inside the Office of the Ombudsman," Salonga said, quoting his sources.

The Salazar panel excluded Javier because "(he) appears to have not participated in the award of the project as he was then on official business trip."

Borra was the commissioner-in-charge that approved the award of the Comelec's purchase of automated counting machines to Mega Pacific, thus, his being recommended for impeachment by the Gutierrez resolution.

The panel also noted the failure of MPC's automated counting machines to meet the 99.9995 percent accuracy rating as mandated by the automation law.

The Salazar panel, however, found no probable cause to find the commissioners liable for plunder since there was no evidence that they amassed wealth worth P50 million or more from the deal.

While it found the Comelec chair and the commissioners, except Javier, liable for corrupt practices, the panel said it could not recommend "outright prosecution in judicial courts" against the election commissioners.

The panel also recommended graft raps against former Comelec commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco and Ralph Lantion who were also involved in the Mega Pacific deal.

Marcelo had inhibited himself from the Ombudsman's deliberations on the failed Comelec deal with Mega Pacific and had assigned Fernandez to oversee the process.

But until Gutierrez's appointment, Fernandez had failed to sign the document, according to Salonga quoting sources at the Ombudsman.

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SC rejects Romualdez bid to regain 2 Equitable posts

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT HAS REJECTED THE bid of lawyer Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, a son of Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, to be returned to his positions as vice chair of the Equitable PCIB Bank (EPCIB) and chair of the bank's trust committee.

In an en banc resolution dated July 11 and released yesterday, the high court said Romualdez, who represents the family-owned Trans Middle East Equities' (TMEE) shareholdings in the bank, had misinterpreted the SC's earlier June 9 ruling upholding the TMEE's right to a seat in the board.

Romualdez filed a motion on June 21 asking the SC to direct the EPCIB board to make "full compliance" of its June 9 ruling by installing him to his previous post and restoring all his rights and privileges as vice chair.

In a ruling signed by Clerk of Court Ma. Luisa Villarama, the high court clarified that its June 9 decision merely ordered the EPCIB board of directors "to recognize the nominee or representative of TMEE" as a member of the board of directors "with all the rights and privileges appertaining to the position."

Board seat, nothing more

According to the court, the word "position" referred to membership in the board of directors and not, as claimed by Romualdez, to his right to the vice-chairmanship of the bank.

"TMEE proceeds from erroneous premises. All the Court mandated was that Romualdez (as TMEE's nominee) be recognized as a member of the board of directors and nothing more," the SC said.

The court explained that under Section 25 of the Corporation Code, it is the directors of the corporation who elect corporate officers who, excepting the president, generally need not even be directors themselves.

"While TMEE may have been put in a disadvantage since its representative was not able participate in the election of Equitable-PCI Bank's officers, it certainly would not follow that such representative had a right to election as an officer since the discretion to elect corporate officers belongs solely to the board of directors," the resolution said.

The high court also argued similarly in denying the TMEE petition to restore Romualdez to his former committee memberships.

The SC said the EPCIB board of directors had the sole discretion to organize the committees of the corporation.

The issue stems from a June 9 resolution of the SC nullifying the May 22 resolution of the Sandiganbayan disqualifying the Romualdez family from voting the TMEE's shares in the bank at the annual stockholders meeting scheduled for May 23.

Voting 13 to nil, the high court ordered the EPCIB to admit and recognize the TMEE nominee to the board in place of the person who was elected board director during the May 23 meeting.

TMEE owns 51,827,640, or 7.13 percent, of the outstanding capital of the EPCIB, the result of the controversial 1999 acquisition by the then Equitable Bank of the much bigger PCIBank owned by the Lopez family and John Gokongwei.

Contested shares

The TMEE ownership of the shares is being contested by the Lopez family which claims that the PCI Bank shares were part of of a bigger hoard of Lopez assets that Kokoy Romualdez seized from the family during the martial law regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Kokoy Romualdez is the brother of the dictator's widow, Imelda.

After the 1986 people power revolution, the Presidential Commission on Good Government sequestered the TMEE shares in the then PCI Bank. They are included in the assets that the PCGG is seeking to recover from Kokoy Romualdez et al in Civil Case No. 0035 filed with the Sandiganbayan. The Lopez family filed a motion to intervene in the civil case, claiming to be the rightful owner of the shares.

While the ownership issue remained unresolved, the Sandiganbayan allowed the Romualdez family to vote the shares. It directed however that the shares, dividends and earnings be deposited in escrow for whoever would eventually be adjudged the rightful owner.

Bombay blasts 'evil personified'–GMA

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo yesterday condemned the bomb attacks in India's financial center of Bombay as "evil personified."

"This atrocity is beyond words; it is evil personified and we join the world in denouncing its perpetrators," Ms Arroyo said in a statement.

"The Filipino people join the global community in strongly condemning the series of bombings that left hundreds of commuters dead (or wounded) in Bombay," she said.

Ms Arroyo also offered her condolences to the families of the victims as well as to the Indian government for the "abrupt, violent and needless loss of lives."

The Department of Foreign Affairs said no Filipino had been reported killed or wounded in the bombings. *AFP*

'Take care of the President'

By Christine O. Avendaño

OUTGOING ARMED FORCES chief of staff Gen. Genoroso Senga yesterday instructed newly-appointed Presidential Security Group chief Col. Romeo Prestoza to "buckle up and work" in securing President Macapagal Arroyo.

"Remember what I said to you...Take care of the President," Senga told Prestoza in a speech during the turnover rites of the PSG command from Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit to Prestoza at the PSG headquarters at Malacañang Park.

Senga also thanked Bangit for being able to lead the PSG during his watch, including countering with "deliberate effectiveness all the attempts to overthrow our duly-constituted government, especially in securing Malacañang in several critical occasions."

"I am proud to mention that aside from being the primary protector of our Commander in chief, the PSG has commendably served as the representative of the AFP throughout the country," he also said.

Senga's defense ...

From page A1

new chief of the Presidential Security Group, said that he was very much in control and not under the control of anyone during those tumultuous hours.

Senga told reporters, in response to allegations by military junior officers that the AFP chief of staff had initially joined them in their plan to withdraw support from President Arroyo.

'Very professional'

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, who attended the weekly news briefing of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, vouched for Senga's integrity, saying the latter was an officer that is "very professional, very competent, exercises strong political will, has a very firm backbone, straightforward, and he is an effective and efficient leader."

"I have knowledge he had responded with the right measures and in a quick enough sufficient time to respond appropriately to the situation as a professional soldier and in accordance and in defense of the Constitution," Cruz said.

No wavering

Asked how soon Senga reported the plot against Ms Arroyo to authorities, Cruz said: "(Senga) called major service commanders right away and reported to higher authorities what was happening right away."

Cruz said he has not seen the report yet on the military's investigation of the Feb. 23-24 incident.

New post for Senga

Cruz said that he would personally lobby that Senga get a senior government post after his retirement.

"I think it would be a waste if we do not make use of General Senga's long experience in the service and his competence which I believe the government can use in a positive and helpful way," said Cruz in a briefing.

"I'm still thinking where his talent and experience will be put to good use. I think he's going on a little vacation after stepping down (on July 21) and this will give us more time to decide where he should be appointed," Cruz said.

Senga also told reporters: "At that time, I was in control, I was making my own decisions, and all the things that the Armed Forces did on that night and the following morning, all the actions that were undertaken by the command, the Philippine Army, Navy, Air Force, they were all doing it under my instructions."

Aside from Cruz, Palace officials led by Ermita rallied behind Senga, saying that Malacañang had never doubted the loyalty of the AFP chief of staff to President Arroyo during that time.

Ermita said he saw Senga yesterday morning and that the latter had merely "laughed off'" the INQUIRER report alleging that he had initially sided with the junior military officers.

"It's not true," Ermita said. "Between what has been reported by other officers to whoever wrote that story and General Senga, I would believe the chief of staff."

"Nothing can give any doubt that General Senga, the chief of staff, had been loyal to the President, to the government and he did his job as chief of staff during that moment," he said.

During his weekly news briefing, Ermita also pointed out that what Senga did during that time was the complete opposite of the allegations being hurled against him.

"He did his part as chief of staff, and the things that happen and the result of his actions speak for themselves, so there's no reason for us to doubt the word and action of General Senga," the executive secretary said.

The military fact-finding team reported that it took Senga two hours before calling a conference with the service commanders.

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‘Magdalo plotted special operation vs 20 Arroyo allies’

From page A1

The four generals were cleared in March by a fact-finding board headed by Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga, the Navy chief. Despite widespread clamor, the military has refused to release the board's findings.

It was unclear if "Oplan Trident" alluded to the Mayuga investigation. The current restiveness in the Armed Forces has been triggered by the crisis of legitimacy hanging over Ms Arroyo although she has vehemently denied any wrongdoing.

The document seized from the six rebel soldiers belonging to the Magdalo group that staged the aborted "Oakwood" mutiny in 2003 listed the names of 20 public officials and individuals known to be Arroyo allies.

Special targets

The 20 Arroyo allies are supposed to be "targets of special operations" to "embarrass" them along with the main plan of taking hostage lawmakers at the House of Representatives building, according to the paper. It did not say how the rebels wanted to embarrass these personalities.

The "Oplan Trident" list is topped by former AFP Chief of Staff and now Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, followed by Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, and then Esperon.

Also named were Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, presidential aide Ricardo Saludo, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. chair Ephraim Genuino, Presidential Legislative Liaison Officer Gabriel Claudio, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles, Solicitor General Eduardo Nachura, Armed Forces Northern Luzon Command chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, 7th Infantry Division chief Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis.

Assault on Malacañang

Aside from taking over the Batasan complex, the rebels also were to assault Malacañang and military and police camps to confuse and delay government counteractions.

Officials could not say when or how such an ambitious plan would be carried out, but hinted the hostage-taking might have been planned for July 24, when the President delivers her State of the Nation Address before a joint session of Congress at the Batasan Complex.

"(Oplan Trident) revealed a plan for direct military action and people's support against the government," Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said in a joint military-police news conference in Camp Aguinaldo.

"(The) end state of this undertaking is (to) bring down the government and pave the way for the establishment of a transitional revolutionary government," Bacarro added.

The officials claimed the rebel officers tried to recruit the same soldiers who took over the swank Oakwood apartment hotel in Makati City during the July 27, 2003, coup attempt and who were released in May last year.

Downplay

Col. Tristan Kison said the recruitment effort failed.

Military leaders have said they had accounted for all rebel soldiers at large with the arrest of six "Magdalo" junior officers last Friday.

Even as the military and police bared "Oplan Trident," they also immediately downplayed it.

"Though Trident appears to be feasible, the probability of its implementation is slim considering that no significant forces are stated to be committed," Bacarro said.

"They don't have the necessary firearms to use and most of the key personalities involved in the planning are already neutralized."

"Initially, they have, as part of their wish list, something like 120 personnel joining them. But actually they do not have that force," Bacarro said.

"It's imaginary, but on the ground they don't have that number. They specified units in their plan but they don't have the forces," he went on.

Civilian role

During the planned hostage-taking, active and retired military officers, religious leaders and civil society groups were to converge at the nearby St. Peter's Parish Church to join troops who would withdraw support from Ms Arroyo and install a "transition government."

"(Oplan Trident) was planned by the same group behind Oplan Hackle," said Bacarro, referring to the Magdalo group's supposed assassination plot against the President and Cabinet members in February, Bacarro said.

Military officials asked if ex-Scout Rangers chief Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, who led a move to withdraw military support from Ms Arroyo on Feb. 24, was involved in Oplan Trident.

"There is nothing in the documents which will specifically link him in the crafting of Oplan Trident," said Maj. Gen. Jose Honrado.

Bacarro said investigators learned about "Oplan Trident" from documents recovered during the July 7 raid and follow-up operation last Monday.

Arrested officers

Arrested on Friday last week were alleged Oakwood mutineers Army Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza; 1st Lt. Patricio Bumidang Jr. and Sonny Sarmiento, who escaped from Fort Bonifacio on Jan. 17; 2nd Lt. Angelbert Gay and Aldrin Baldonado, who went absent without official leave in February; and Navy Lt. (j.g.) Kiram Sadava.

Bumidang returned to the safe house with PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group agents on Monday to turn over additional documents and other items.

Officials would not confirm whether Bumidang had already defected to the government.

CIDG-National Capital Region Senior Supt. Asher Dolina said Bumidang's involvement so far is limited to identifying and turning over documents and other items.

Also arrested with the group were defense lawyer Jose Christopher Belmonte and Michael Yangson.

Magdalo defense lawyer Roel Pulido claimed the explosives and blueprints of the Batasan Complex found in the house were planted by authorities.

Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr. said press statements subsequently found after the July 7 raid also revealed that those behind a series of bombings in Metro Manila and other areas in Central Luzon were linked with the Magdalo group.

A group called Tabak had claimed responsibility for the bombings, which had caused minor damage and no injuries.

Esperon next AFP chief of staff; Lapus new education secretary

From page A1

factor anymore," Ermita said.

But he was particularly sensitive to criticisms that since July 8, the President had been choosing mostly politicians instead of private sector professionals such as former Finance Secretary and Hyatt 10 leader Cesar Purisima, former head of SGV & Co., to fill up the Cabinet posts vacated by the Hyatt 10.

"Can you imagine a guy like him from the private sector doing what he did?" Ermita said, referring to Purisima. "Isn't that part of destabilization? Do you consider that as part of his contribution to governance?"

Tested, qualified

But Ermita was quick to point out that aside from loyalty to the President, the new appointees also have "something between the ears."

"We don't have to lump them up as political or professionals. What is important is do they have the competence to do the job? Do they have the track record? I think all of the President's choices are all tested and qualified," said Ermita.

Esperon, who attended the turnover of command of the new Presidential Security Group chief Col. Romeo Prestoza, brushed aside comments that he got the top AFP post as a "favor or payback."

"They must look at my record and where I have come from and what my record tells about my career," Esperon told reporters.

He also said he was ready to face the Commission on Appointments, which had deferred confirmation of his promotion to three-star general after senators requested more time to question him on his "fitness" when Congress resumes its session.

"I have always faced squarely the controversies that were racked up against me, I will face whoever will question that I was party to any election fraud," he said.

Leading the charge

"I was just doing my job in the field and garrison as chief of operations of the AFP during the elections and I am proud of the output of the AFP at that time."

Esperon said he was "honored to be given that mission of leading the Armed Forces in the defeat of the communist terrorists."

Ms Arroyo has ordered the military and police to crush the communist insurgency in two years.

"I shall be in the frontline as often I can, I will lead the charge," Esperon also said.

DepEd union critical

Lapus vowed to improve the quality of Philippine education. He said his experience as a professional manager and in crafting the yearly budget would be put to good use in his new job.

"The awesome challenge of restoring the country's past world-class quality of education is a mission of a lifetime," Lapus said in a statement. "The very future rests in the quality of our human resources."

But Domingo Alidon, president of the DepEd National Employees Union, criticized Lapus' appointment. He said the department should not be used for political purposes.

"The DepEd deserves a secretary who specializes in education. This does not augur well for the educational reforms initiated by DepEd Secretary Edilberto de Jesus and could send the wrong signals to DepEd's varied publics," said Alidon.

Fe Hidalgo, DepEd officer in charge, will remain as undersecretary. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Michael Lim Ubac, Alcuin Papa and TJ Burgonio*

Vidal, 2 bishops rejected thousands in Pagcor donations

From page A1

The envelopes were said to contain from P20,000 to P30,000 in cash, said one bishop who had rejected the dole. He said it "insulted" him and was meant to "bribe" him and his colleagues into "softening" their position on such issues as the fresh impeachment campaign against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But the President's allies in the House said the reported attempt at bribery was "the devil's handiwork."

Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina said he believed that the "smear drive" was intended to pit Malacañang against the Church.

Moral discretion

Asked to comment on the offer of assistance to Vidal, Lagdameo and Aniceto, CBCP spokesperson Msgr. Pedro Quitorio yesterday said they should be commended for "exercising their moral discretion."

Quitorio said the decision of the three prelates proved their "fidelity" to the CBCP's pastoral statement of Jan. 23, 2005, in which all the bishops pledged to shun donations of money from gambling, whether legal or illegal.

"They have come to realize that there may be some political underpinnings involved in certain donations, especially those as big as the one allegedly offered to them," he said.

To avert suspicion that Malacañang is trying to win favors from the bishops, Pagcor should send donations directly to the poor, Quitorio said.

"[Pagcor officials] really don't have to course the money through the bishops because the bishops would send it to the poor, anyway," he said.

The checks supposedly intended for Vidal, Lagdameo and Aniceto in 2005 were offered in the same month that the Inquirer ran a report on similar cash gifts for a number of bishops and other members of the clergy in 2003.

Pagcor documents showed that it had offered "Christmas gifts" ranging from P500,000 to P4 million to certain bishops including Vidal, the archbishop of Cebu; Aniceto of San Fernando, Pampanga; and Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, then CBCP president.

Collective policy

Also among the supposed recipients were two other bishops, 45 priests, and 18 religious groups.

"The CBCP has made it a collective policy to refrain from soliciting or receiving funds from illegal and legal gambling so as not to promote a culture of gambling, and encourage church personnel and church institutions to refrain from doing the same, even when the objective may be that of helping the poor," the organization said in its January 2005 pastoral statement.

For all that, Pagcor could not seem to contain its generosity.

The Pagcor papers showed that P500,000 was to be donated each to Vidal and Aniceto, and P300,000 to Lagdameo. The check numbers were 00105937 (Vidal), 00105939 (Aniceto), and 00105941 (Lagdameo).

All three checks, issued through Land Bank of the Philippines-Manila, were dated Sept. 1, 2005, and bore the name and supposed signature of Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino.

A separate sheet, supposedly a copy of a Pagcor request for payment, was attached to each of the three check voucher copies. Listed under "particulars" was the item "financial assistance."

Ticklish issue

A check is issued only after the Pagcor board has approved a recommendation, the insider said.

Receiving cash donations, especially from Pagcor, has been a ticklish issue among members of the CBCP, even with its pastoral letter on gambling.

Disagreements have marked the teaching that gambling in itself is amoral, a position explained last year by Capalla.

But according to Archbishop Oscar Cruz, a vocal enemy of gambling, money coming even from legal gambling cannot "usher in the virtues of benevolence and charity" even if it goes straight to the poor.

"The end does not justify that means—this is elementary morality," said Cruz, a former president of the CBCP. "Money from vice cannot be cleansed into a virtuous commodity by simply throwing [it] to the needy, the hungry, the sick."

Citing the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the compendium of teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, the CBCP in 2005 said "games of chance or wagers" were "not in themselves contrary to justice."

"They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others. The passion for gambling risks becoming an enslavement," it said.

In bed with Lucifer

According to Zamboanga del Sur Rep. Isidoro Real Jr., the report that the CBCP members were offered cash during their recent plenary assembly "came from individuals who begrudge the CBCP for its anti-impeachment stance."

Real, vice chair of the committee on good government, said those supposedly smearing the bishops "should stop and get out of bed with Lucifer."

"In the first place, the President is a truly religious person, who will never bribe men of the cloth. Doing so would mean breaking her own faith and religious principles. We appeal to them to stop the smear campaign against the Church and be God-fearing," he said.

Baterina, vice chair of the House committee on justice, said: "The President's allies condemn the malicious attack on the CBCP members as the devil's handiwork, which is meant to discredit not only the Palace but also the Church."

He said the bishops had prayed for discernment on the impeachment issue before coming out with their pastoral statement on Monday.

But "unable to accept the CBCP's decision, these wicked individuals now want to chastise our good bishops for not toeing their proimpeachment line," he said.

Speak up

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles called on the bishops to speak up and defend themselves, and challenged "rumormongers" to name names.

"You cannot just send money through a messenger. The Palace is not stupid [or] foolish to do that. If the allegations are true, it doesn't mean that the money had come from Malacañang. It could have come from anybody who wants to make it appear that the administration is indeed bribing the bishops, when in fact it is not," he said.

The CBCP pastoral statement issued on Monday said that while it would not endorse the current impeachment process, it would respect the stance of individuals and groups involved in it, and would continue its search for the truth behind the allegations hounding the President. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Vanuatu happiest place on Earth; RP ranks 17

From page A1

the Philippines ranked 17th in the Happy Planet Index compiled by the British think tank New Economics Foundation (NEF).

The index combines life satisfaction, life expectancy and environmental footprint—the amount of land required to sustain the population and absorb its energy consumption.

Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica and Panama complete the top five in the Happy Planet Index.

Zimbabwe bottom

Zimbabwe emerged at the bottom of the heap, below second-worst performer Swaziland, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ukraine. Seven African countries were at the bottom 10 of the index.

"The Happy Planet Index strips the view of the economy back to its absolute basics: What we put in (resources), and what comes out (human lives of different length and happiness)," the NEF said.

Unsmiling G8

The NEF, an independent group that did the index jointly with UK-based green campaign group Friends of the Earth, said the report showed that high levels of resource consumption did not reliably produce high levels of well-being.

The Group of Eight (G8), a forum of the heads of leading industrialized nations, will be meeting in St. Petersburg this weekend, but they have not much to smile about. None of them made it to the top 50 of the index.

Italy came out best in 66th place, ahead of Germany (81), Japan (95), Britain (108), Canada (111), France (129), the United States (150) and Russia (172).

Switzerland came ahead among all European nations.

"The order of nations that emerges may seem counterintuitive. But this is because policy makers have been led astray by abstract mathematical models of the economy that bear little relation to the real world," said NEF policy director Andrew Simms.

Simms said the index "addresses the relative success or failure of countries in giving their citizens a good life while respecting the environmental resource limits on which all our lives depend."

Patterns

Nic Marks, head of the NEF center for well-being, added: "It is clear that no single nation listed in the Happy Planet Index has got everything right. But the index does reveal patterns that show how we might better achieve long and happy lives for all, whilst living within our environmental means."

"The challenge is: Can we learn the lessons and apply them?" Marks said.

Among Asian nations, Vietnam was ranked highest at No. 12, followed by Sri Lanka (15) and the Philippines (17). Indonesia was at No. 23, China (31), Thailand (32), Malaysia (44), Hong Kong (88), Japan (95) and Singapore (131).

Central America was the region with the highest average score, combining good life expectancy of 70 years with an ecological footprint below its globally fair share.

Island nations

Island nations performed particularly well in the rankings.

But Vanuatu, with a population of around 200,000, topped them all. Vanuatu, part of a vast sprawling Pacific archipelago, has been described as "the happy isles of Oceania" by author Paul Theroux.

"Don't tell too many people, please," said Marke Lowen of Vanuatu Online, the republic's online newspaper.

"People are generally happy here because they are very satisfied with very little," Lowen said.

"This is not a consumer-driven society. Life here is about community and family and goodwill to other people. It's a place where you don't worry too much. The only things we fear are cyclones or earthquakes." *Reports from AFP and Reuters*

GMA going to Libya to thank Gadhafi

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WILL thank Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi in person for his efforts to resolve a decades-long Muslim separatist insurgency, officials said yesterday.

Ms Arroyo, who leaves for Tripoli on Saturday, also will discuss the welfare of Filipino workers in Libya and oil supplies for the Philippines, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said.

"The President will thank the great leader Gadhafi for the 30 years of partnership for peace in the southern Philippines," Ermita said.

He said Arroyo, who will return to Manila on Tuesday, was looking to strengthen relations with Libya and also invite more Libyan investments in the Philippines.

Libya hosted talks in 1976 between Manila and the main Muslim rebel group, Moro National Liberation Front, which eventually signed a peace accord in 1996. Libya also brokered talks in 2001 with another rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, that paved the way for ongoing formal negotiations.

Libya played a key role in winning the release of Western tourists seized by the Muslim extremist group Abu Sayyaf from a Malaysian resort and brought to the southern Philippines in 2000. Libya reportedly paid millions of dollars (euros) in ransom for the hostages, but this was not officially confirmed.

AP

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, July 13, 2006
14th Week in Ordinary Time
Henry

1st Reading: Hos 11:1-4, 8-9
Gospel: Matthew 10:7-15

Jesus said to his disciples, "Go and proclaim this message: The kingdom of heaven is near. Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, cleanse the lepers, and drive out demons. You received this as a gift, so give it as a gift. Do not carry any gold, silver or copper in your purses. Do not carry a traveler's bag, or an extra shirt, or sandals, or walking-stick: Workers deserve their living.

When you come to a town or a village, look for a worthy person and stay there until you leave.

As you enter the house, wish it peace. If the people in the house deserve it, your peace will be on them; if they do not deserve it, your blessing will come back to you.

And if you are not welcomed and your words are not listened to, leave that house or that town and shake the dust off your feet. I assure you, it will go easier for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than it will for the people of that town."

Commentary

God treats Israel so tenderly, like a child, fostering them, kissing and feeding them. Our God is tender, pitying us, overwhelmed with love for us even though he is also the Holy One among us, the God of justice and judgment. Why can we not see that? And Jesus is that love in flesh and blood, traveling everywhere and sending his disciples out to do his work: heal, bring hope, preach good news to the poor, do justice. And we are told to travel light, go without violence or protection, rely on the goodness of others, share the richness of the Word and accept what is shared with us. And when rejected, leave, but leave the judgment of others to God. It is the way of the missionary/prophet/preacher.

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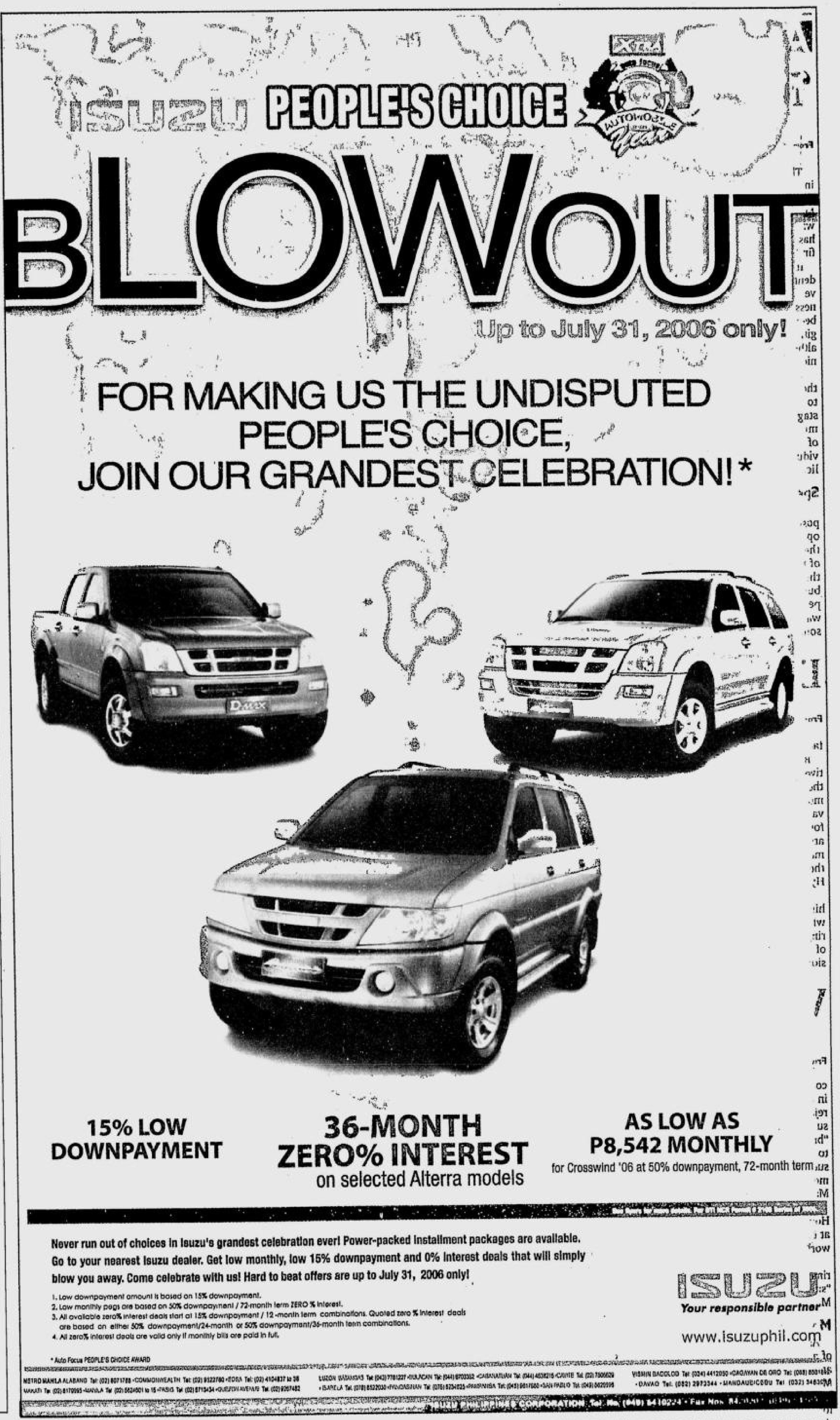
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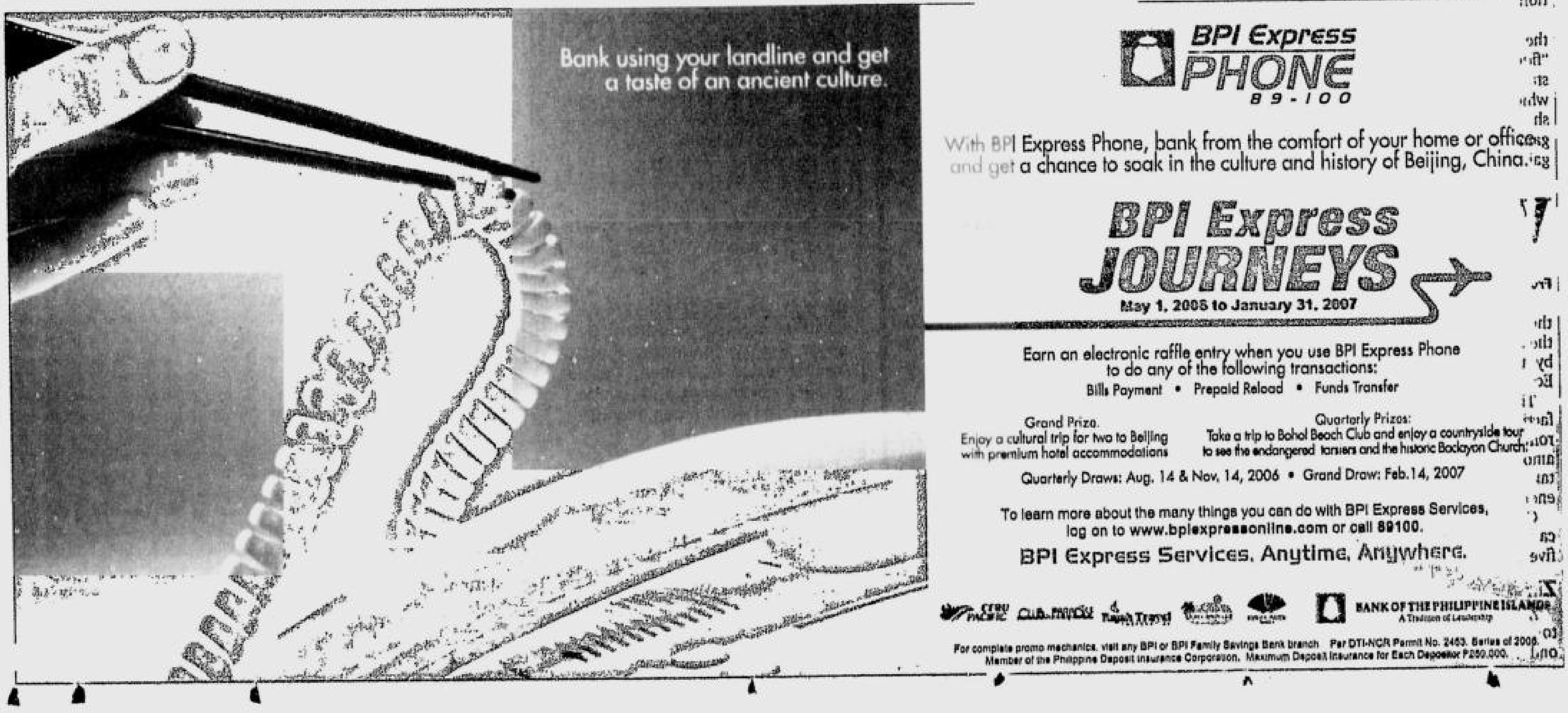
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TIMELINE

March 6, 2004. Presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson accuses President Macapagal-Arroyo of "virtual vote-buying" by authorizing the release of P728 million to favored officials, supposedly to buy farm inputs like fertilizers and pesticides for their constituents, as part of the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) project.

Lacson questions the timing of the fund release. He adds that some of the districts in the list of recipients do not even have farmlands.

May 2004. Former Solicitor General Frank Chavez files a plunder case against the President. He identifies Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante as one of those who signed the papers involving the release and disposition of the fertilizer fund.

Chavez says the friends of the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, at the Department of Agriculture pocketed about P142 million of the amount earmarked for the project.

June 3, 2004. Bolante, who considers Mike Arroyo "a good friend," says the latter has nothing to do with the fund controversy.

He admits to signing papers regarding the fund, but claims that he had no hand in the selection of the recipients because the system is "demand-driven."

He says he welcomes a probe, as "this is the opportunity to answer these false accusations."

September 2004. Bolante resigns as agriculture undersecretary ostensibly because of his election as Rotary International's director for Asia-Pacific.

He is also named to the Government Service and Insurance System's board of trustees.

Oct. 6, 2005. The Senate committee on agriculture chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. opens its inquiry into the fertilizer fund. Bolante is a no-show.

Oct. 26, 2005. Bolante leaves for Los Angeles hours before the second Senate hearing.

November 2005. Magsaysay seeks the assistance of the US Embassy and Rotary International in locating Bolante, who is a no-show at the Nov. 17 and Nov. 24 hearings.

Dec. 5, 2005. Bolante reportedly arrives at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Dec. 11, 2005. Bolante leaves on a Cathay Pacific flight for Hong Kong en route to the United States, four days after the Bureau of Immigration placed him on its watch list.

Dec. 13, 2005. The Senate cites Bolante for contempt and orders his arrest.

Jan. 17, 2006. In a petition submitted through the Philippine consul in Chicago, Bolante asks the Supreme Court to stop the Senate from implementing the arrest order, saying he is willing to attend the committee hearings.

But he snubs the Jan. 31 and Feb. 2 hearings.

March 1, 2006. The Senate committee on agriculture and the blue ribbon committee release a report recommending the filing of criminal and administrative charges against Bolante and other agriculture officials.

The report also says the President should be "held accountable" for the mismanagement of the fund.

June 26, 2006. The second impeachment complaint against the President is filed. Her alleged participation in the fertilizer fund scam is included in the charges.

Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

US jails GMA point man; extradition sought

From page A1

He said that embezzlement of funds was an "extraditable offense," and that the government "should look at that aspect."

News of Bolante's arrest came four months after the Senate committee on agriculture wrapped up its inquiry into what it called the "premeditated, systematic" agricultural theft and recommended the filing of charges against Bolante and several current and former agriculture officials.

The committee also concluded that President Macapagal-Arroyo should be held accountable for the "mismanagement of the fund."

The fund, allotted for the purchase of farm inputs, was believed to have been diverted and distributed as largesse to administration allies to ensure Ms Arroyo's victory in the May 2004 presidential election.

Bolante is being held at the San Pedro Detention Center in California, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque told a press briefing yesterday.

He was arrested by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) on July 7 and detained because of his cancelled B1-B2 visa, Asuque said, quoting the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles.

The hearing of Bolante's visa case is scheduled on July 12 (today in Manila), Asuque said.

He said the consulate's legal officer, Noemi Diaz, had spoken with the INS representative and was informed that Bolante was being represented by his own lawyer.

"We will know why his business visa was cancelled after the hearing," Asuque said.

'Private citizen'

Bolante was once considered one of the President's most trusted men, but now Malacañang would not dream of posting bail for him.

"We will not raise a finger to do such a thing that you are suggesting," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said when told about Bolante's supposed request for Malacañang's help in posting bail of $100,000 for his temporary release.

Ermita said the Palace had yet to verify reports that Bolante had indeed been arrested by US immigration officials.

"If it's true, what is his right to ask for that amount from the government?" Ermita said, adding:

"I don't see under what arrangement we can help him. He is a private citizen. If the government helps him, [people] will say, 'Malacañang helped Bolante, so Malacañang is responsible for hiding Bolante.'"

At the most, Ermita said, the government would extend to Bolante the same assistance it would give ordinary Filipinos in a similar bind.

"It will just be SOP (standard operating procedure) for the consulate," he said.

BOLANTE: Palace will not post bail

MAGSAYSAY: Face probe of Ombudsman

ARROYO: Bolante exonerates his 'good friend'

LACSON: His exposé started it all

According to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, the government's role in Bolante's case is only to make sure that his legal rights are respected.

His being a former colleague in the Cabinet does not count, Bunye said.

The normally cool Ermita was visibly annoyed when asked if Malacañang should worry about Bolante's possible appearance at the Senate inquiry on the fertilizer scam.

"I don't see why we should be bothered by a Senate probe. There is no reason for Malacañang to be bothered," he said.

From Seoul

Quoting Consul General William Gaa, Asuque said the INS informed the consulate by phone of Bolante's arrest and detention on July 10.

Asuque said Bolante was arrested upon arriving in Los Angeles via Asiana Airlines from Seoul on Friday night (Saturday morning in Manila).

"He appeared to be traveling alone," Asuque told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Asuque told reporters that the DFA had not cancelled Bolante's passport, allowing him to travel freely.

"This is a visa case. It is the decision of a country's immigration officials if they would allow a person to enter their country or cancel one's visa," he said in Filipino.

Asuque also said there was no information if Bolante's arrest and detention were related to the fertilizer scam.

'His fate'

Throughout the Senate's six public hearings spread over six months, Bolante was a no-show, often using his travels abroad as then director of Rotary International as excuse.

Last year, the miffed senators cited him for contempt and ordered his arrest.

Bolante's arrest in the United States is "his fate," Magsaysay told the INQUIRER.

"Bad news for him, good news for the country and the farmers. This is an issue of accounting and accountability," the senator said, adding:

"We'd like the US authorities to secure his person and his life, given that he has been avoiding testifying at the Senate hearing."

Magsaysay also said that once the US immigration authorities were done with Bolante, the Philippines Bureau of Immigration could send agents to Los Angeles to serve the Senate arrest order on the man.

"They should bring him to the Senate so he can face us and answer some questions on the scam," Magsaysay said.

He said he was not ruling out initiating an inquiry into other government fund releases for the purchase of farmers' inputs.

"But we'd rather that the Ombudsman do something about [Bolante]," he said.

The senator also said the government should extend assistance to Bolante as a citizen, and not as a public official.

"He should be assured of his safety and handled without physical risk. And that he gets his lawyers," Magsaysay said. "But beyond that, it's up to government officials to handle him. He might be too hot to handle."

Ombudsman Gutierrez

Drilon said Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, whose office is investigating the fertilizer fund scam, should invoke the RP-US Extradition Treaty "to bring back Bolante."

"She is familiar with the treaty because as then state counsel of the Department of Justice, Mercy Gutierrez assisted me in negotiating the treaty," Drilon, who served as justice secretary during the Aquino administration, said in reply to a question from the INQUIRER.

Danilo Ramos, secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas who testified at the Senate inquiry, also said Bolante "must immediately be extradited to the Philippines to face the charges against him."

"He must be punished for his crimes against the peasants, particularly his involvement in the P728-million fertilizer scam," Ramos said.

Pimentel, however, said Bolante could turn state witness "to save his evil skin and send more guilty persons to jail." *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

June 27, 2006

REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 9-2006

Subject : Amending Further Certain Provisions of Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 6-2005, as Amended, Implementing the Provisions of Executive Order (EO) No. 399, as Amended by EO No. 422, Otherwise Known as the "No Audit Program (NAP)".

To : All Internal Revenue Officials, Employees and Others Concerned.

SECTION 1. SCOPE. Pursuant to Section 244 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 in relation to EO 399, as amended by EO 422, these Regulations are hereby promulgated to further amend certain provisions of RR No. 6-2005, as amended.

SECTION 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS. Section 2(d) of RR No. 6-2005 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

xxx xxx xxx

(d) Taxpayer - refers to any person whether individual or corporation earning business income.

SECTION 3. CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION. Section 5 or RR No. 6-2005 as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 5. CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION UNDER THE PROGRAM

For a taxpayer to qualify for the NAP, he must satisfy all of the following:

a. Income tax payment for the Current Taxable Year must exceed the income tax payment for the Base Year by at least 20%;

b. Ratio of income tax payment to gross sales/receipts for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year;

For taxpayers earning mixed income (business income and employment income), the computation of the 20% increase in the income tax payment and the ratio of income tax payment to gross sales must based on the total tax paid and total income by the taxpayer from his business and employment. Provided, however, that increase/decrease in the compensation and its corresponding effect on the tax due for the current taxable year shall be excluded for purposes of computing the compliance with the required increase in income tax payment and the ratio of tax payment to gross sales/receipts.

Taxpayers who paid or are paying the Minimum Corporate Income Tax (MCIT) can still avail of the NAP provided that the required increase in the income tax payment and the ratio of tax payment to gross sales/receipts shall be based on the MCIT payment in the base year and the MCIT due in the current year. Further, excess MCIT shall not be credited from the succeeding year's' tax due, even if the normal income tax becomes higher than the MCIT. Deferred Charges-MCIT for the current year must be closed to retained earnings account.

Taxpayers enjoying the benefit of the preferential tax rates (not subject to the Normal Income Tax Rate) can still avail of the program provided that the required increase in the income tax payment and the ratio of income tax payment to gross sales/receipts as stated in letters (a) and (b) hereof are complied and shall be based on the tax due computed applying the preferential tax rate for the base year and the current year. The same rule applies, even if the taxpayer's current year is no longer entitled to the application of the preferential tax rate.

c. Ratio of net value added tax (VAT) or business tax actually paid to gross sales/receipts for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year, provided, however, that in no case shall it be less than three percent (3%) for those subject to percentage tax, or thirty percent (30%) of the value-added tax rate provided by law for any given period for those subject to value-added tax, or the industry benchmark as may be determined from time to time by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue (Commissioner).

VAT zero-rated transactions and VAT exempt transactions, not subject to percentage tax, shall not be considered for purposes of determining compliance with the required VAT or percentage tax ratio. Provided, however, that the gross sales/receipts from the aforesaid transactions are included for purposes of qualifying with the requirements of letter (a) and (b) of this section.

Taxpayers having purely VAT zero-rated transactions or VAT exempt transactions, not subject to percentage tax, shall not be required to comply with letter (c) and shall be deemed qualified for said exemption provided that the requirements of letters (a) and (b) of this section are complied with. Provided, further, that photocopies of the required documents included in the NAP Participation Form (April 2006 Version) shall be presented for validation of their business tax type/s.

For purposes of determining the tax payments for the Current Taxable Year, only taxes actually paid in cash as shown in the Annual Income Tax Return, Quarterly Income Tax Return, Quarterly Value-added Tax Return, Monthly VAT Declaration and Quarterly/Monthly Percentage Tax Return shall be considered. For this purpose, creditable withholding taxes for the tax year concerned, which are properly supported by a Certificate of Creditable Tax Withheld at Source (BIR Form No. 2307)/Certificate of Compensation Payment/Tax Withheld (BIR Form No. 2316), shall be considered as cash payment. On the other hand, TCCs/TDMs, and tax credit earned over from prior years are considered non-cash items and shall be excluded from determining the tax payments for the Current Taxable Year.

xxx xxx xxx

Provided, further, that the growth rate and ratio provided herein shall be adjusted to reflect the effect of the increase/decrease of the tax rate resulting from legislative measures. These growth rate and ratio shall be determined by the Commissioner for every NAP participation year which shall be released through a Revenue Memorandum Circular to be issued before the deadline for filing of NAP Participation Form on a yearly basis."

xxx xxx xxx"

SECTION 4. TAXPAYERS NOT QUALIFIED FOR THE PROGRAM. Section 6 of RR 6-2005 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 6. TAXPAYERS NOT QUALIFIED FOR THE PROGRAM.

Taxpayers who are reporting net loss or have a Net Operating Loss Carry-over without MCIT due shall be disqualified from participating in the NAP. This includes taxpayers having net income but having no tax payable due to their deduction of personal and additional exemptions."

SECTION 5. DEADLINE. Section 9 of RR No. 6-2005, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 9. DEADLINE

A taxpayers must file a duly accomplished NAP Participation Form, together with the required attachments, not later than thirty (30) days from the statutory deadline for the filing of the Annual Income Tax Return for the year subject of the Participation, or in the case of taxpayers whose statutory deadline for the filing of Annual Income Tax Return occurred earlier than the date of the effectivity of these Regulations, their application must be filed within thirty (30) days from the effectivity thereof.

However, for taxpayers whose taxable year ends December 31, 2005 and fiscal year ending on January, February or March, 2006, the NAP Participation Form must filed together with the required attachments, on or before July 31, 2006.

xxx xxx xxx

Taxpayers who failed to avail and qualify for 2004 NAP availment can still avail of the Program under these regulations by complying with the requirements herein provided; Provided, however, that no final Assessment Notice pursuant to a letter of Authority, Tax Verification Notice or Letter Notice has yet been issued for the taxable year 2004. Additional payments, if any, must be made using BIR Form 06015-101and NAP Participation Form must be filed not later than July 31, 2006."

SECTION 6. ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM AUDIT/INVESTIGATION OR NOTICE OF DISQUALIFICATION. Section 10 of RR No. 6-2005 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 10. ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM AUDIT/INVESTIGATION OR NOTICE OF DISQUALIFICATION.

The application and the required attachments shall be reviewed by the NAP Review Committee composed of the following:

A. Regional Level
Head: Assistant Regional Director
Members: 1. Revenue District Officer where taxpayers is registered
2. Chief, Assessment Division
3. Chief, Legal Division

B. Large Taxpayers
Head: HREA (Regular/Excise)
Members: 1 Chief, LTAID I / LTAID II / LTDO where taxpayers is registered
2. Chief, LTCED
3. Head, Review Team

The NAP Review Committee shall recommend the issuance of a Certificate of Exemption from Audit Investigation or Notice of Disqualification which shall be signed by the Regional Director for regional office cases, or the Assistant Commissioner, Large Taxpayers Service, for large taxpayers' cases.

Any unpaid amount found after review by the NAP Review Committee shall be paid within thirty (30) days from receipt by the taxpayer of the written notification from the RDO or Chief of concerned Large Taxpayers Office, otherwise the taxpayer's availment shall be invalidated."

SECTION 7. APPEAL. Taxpayers who received a Notice of Disqualification may file an appeal to the NAP Committee-National Office Level within 30 (Thirty) days from receipt thereof. The composition, functions, duties and responsibilities of NAP-Committee-National Office Level shall be provided through a Revenue Special Order to be issued by the Commissioner for that purpose.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVITY. These Regulations shall take effect immediately after publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

MARGARITO B. TEVES
Secretary of Finance

Recommending Approval:

JOSE MARIO C. BUNAG
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

(PDI - July 13 2006)

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Bombay picks up pieces after railway bombings kill 190

From page A1

presents itself to the world as a crowded and cosmopolitan metropolis where bankers dine with movie stars and fashion models party until dawn.

As Bombay's 16 million people struggled to regain their footing on Wednesday, suspicion for the blasts fell on Kashmiri militants who have in the past carried out near-simultaneous attacks on Indian cities, including bombings last year at three markets in New Delhi that killed 59 people.

Kashmiri militants

The Times of India reported that Indian intelligence officials believed two shadowy groups—the Kashmiri militant group Lashkar-e-Tayyaba and the banned Students Islamic Movement of India—were responsible for the blasts. Both groups were blamed for a series of Bombay bombings in 2003.

But two of the main Islamic militant groups in the Himalayan region—Lashkar-e-Tayyaba and Hezb-ul-Mujahedeen—condemned the bombings in separate statements on Wednesday. Both groups insisted they had nothing to do with the Bombay bombings or a series of grenade attacks in Kashmir that killed eight people earlier the same day.

"These dastardly acts were perpetrated by the enemies of humanity . . . Indian security forces blame Lashkar in an attempt to defame Kashmir freedom struggle," a spokesperson for Lashkar said in a statement. Kashmiri militants usually issue a similarly worded statement whenever they are accused of carrying out attacks against Indian civilians.

"We do not believe in killing innocent civilians," the Lashkar spokesperson added.

The Hezb-ul-Mujahedeen militant group also condemned the blasts and said in a statement that "mujahedeen cannot be involved in such heinous crimes."

Global condemnation

Tuesday's attacks drew condemnation from around the world. *(See story in The World, Page A20).*

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said "terrorists" were behind the bombings, which he called "shocking and cowardly."

With the annual monsoon leaving the bustling Arabian Sea port overcast and damp, police picked through the mangled train cars, placing evidence in blue plastic bags and shooing away curious onlookers.

"We are just trying to establish what kind of explosives were used and where exactly the bombs were placed but it appears they were kept in the luggage racks," said police inspector Yeshwant Patil, who was helping sift through one wrecked train car.

Patil's assessment matches with initial reports that most of the victims suffered head and chest injuries, presumably from blasts above their heads.

But even as authorities were still trying to determine the nature of the bombs, the CNN-IBN television news channel cited police sources as saying that powerful RDX explosives were used and that timers were found at one of the stations hit.

Governments around the world tightened security in cities from New Delhi to New York after the eight blasts, which struck seven trains within minutes of each other during the early evening rush hour. India's cities remained on high alert.

Commuter transit systems have been tempting targets for terrorists in recent years, with bombers killing 191 in Madrid in 2004 and 52 in London last year.

In 1993, bombers hit the Bombay Stock Exchange and other places in the city, killing more than 250 people.

Tuesday's bombings appeared timed to inflict maximum carnage. The first bombing hit a train at Bandra station at 6:20 p.m.

Other blasts followed down the line of the Western Railway at or near stations at Khar, Jogeshwari, Mahim, Mira Road, Matunga and finally Borivili, which was struck by two blasts at 6:35 p.m., according to the Star News channel. Other reports, however, gave different timelines.

On Wednesday, the Press Trust of India quoted police as saying the casualty toll had hit 190 dead and 625 wounded.

Residents overcame their fears and returned to the trains early Wednesday. However, there was none of the usual crush on the trains, which serve some 6 million people a day, making it one of the world's most crowded rail networks.

In many first-class cars—the target of Tuesday's bombings—there were fewer than half the usual 60 to 70 people.

"Our trust in Bombay has been shattered, we had always thought trains were safe, but what can we do—in this city, trains are the lifeline," said Brijesh Ojha, 35, who boarded the train at Bandra station, where the first blast occurred.

"They can't scare us this way," he said.

Worried residents searched through the night for missing friends and relatives. Dozens of people stood in hospitals, carrying pictures of the missing.

"We have gone to four hospitals, he would have called by now," sobbed Shakuntala Wari who was looking for her 24 year-old son Vikas at the Bhabha hospital near Bandra.

She had also visited a morgue. "I'm just very scared what happened to him."

Others crowded around hospital notice boards pouring over lists of the dead and wounded posted by police. The Bombay police force on Wednesday listed the names of casualties on its website.

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Temporary water interruption in Mandaluyong City needed to upgrade facilities
Manila Water is currently upgrading its facilities and fine-tuning the network to improve the distribution of water in the East Zone. We regret that we will have to temporarily interrupt water supply in portions of Mandaluyong City starting 10:00 p.m., Thursday, July 13, 2006, up to 4:00 a.m., Friday, July 14, due to the interconnection of mainlines. The following areas will be affected: Brgys. Hagdang Bato Libis, Hagdang Bato Itaas, Bagong Silang, Harapin Ang Bukas, Poblacion and Pag-Asa.
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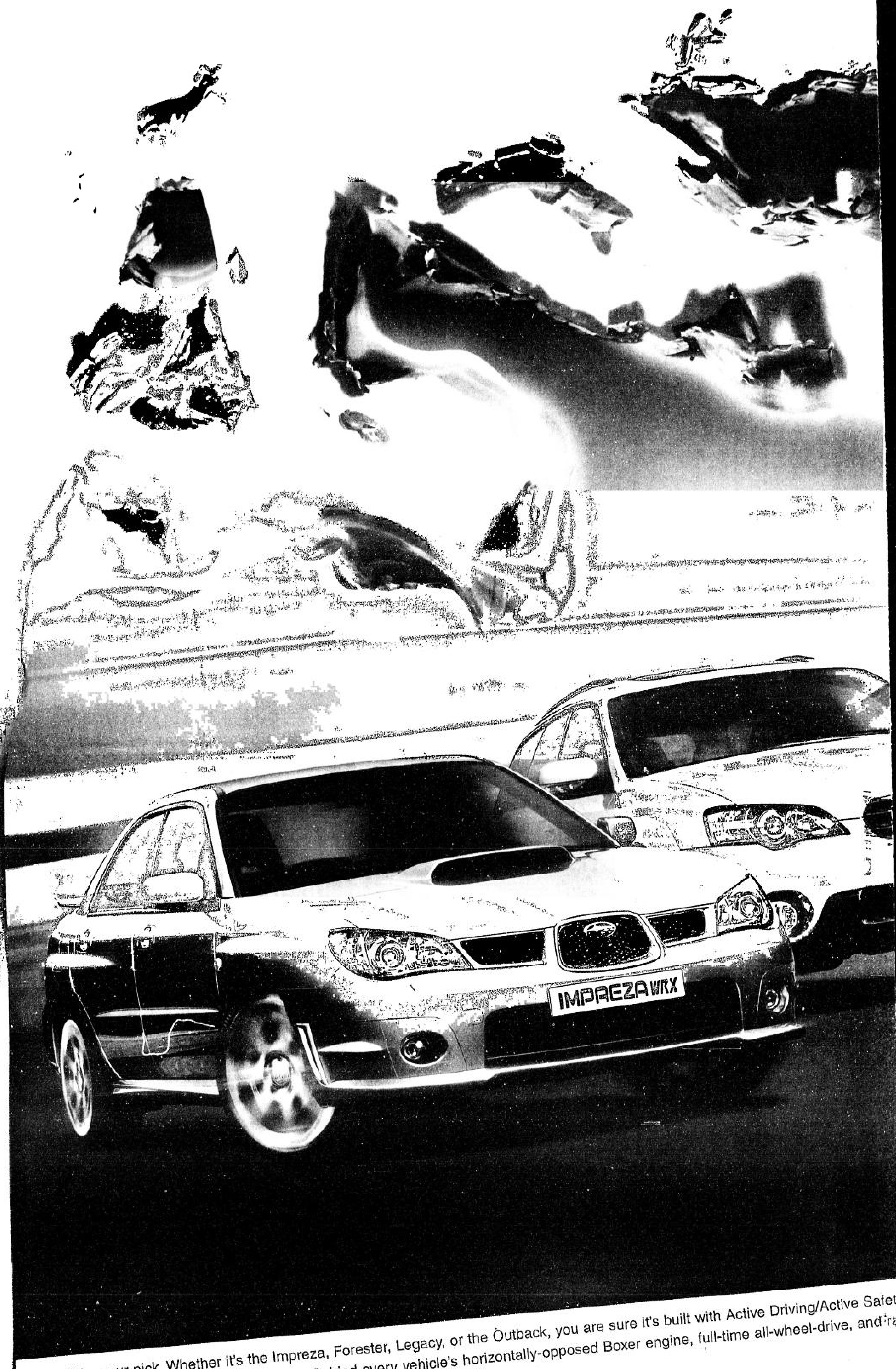

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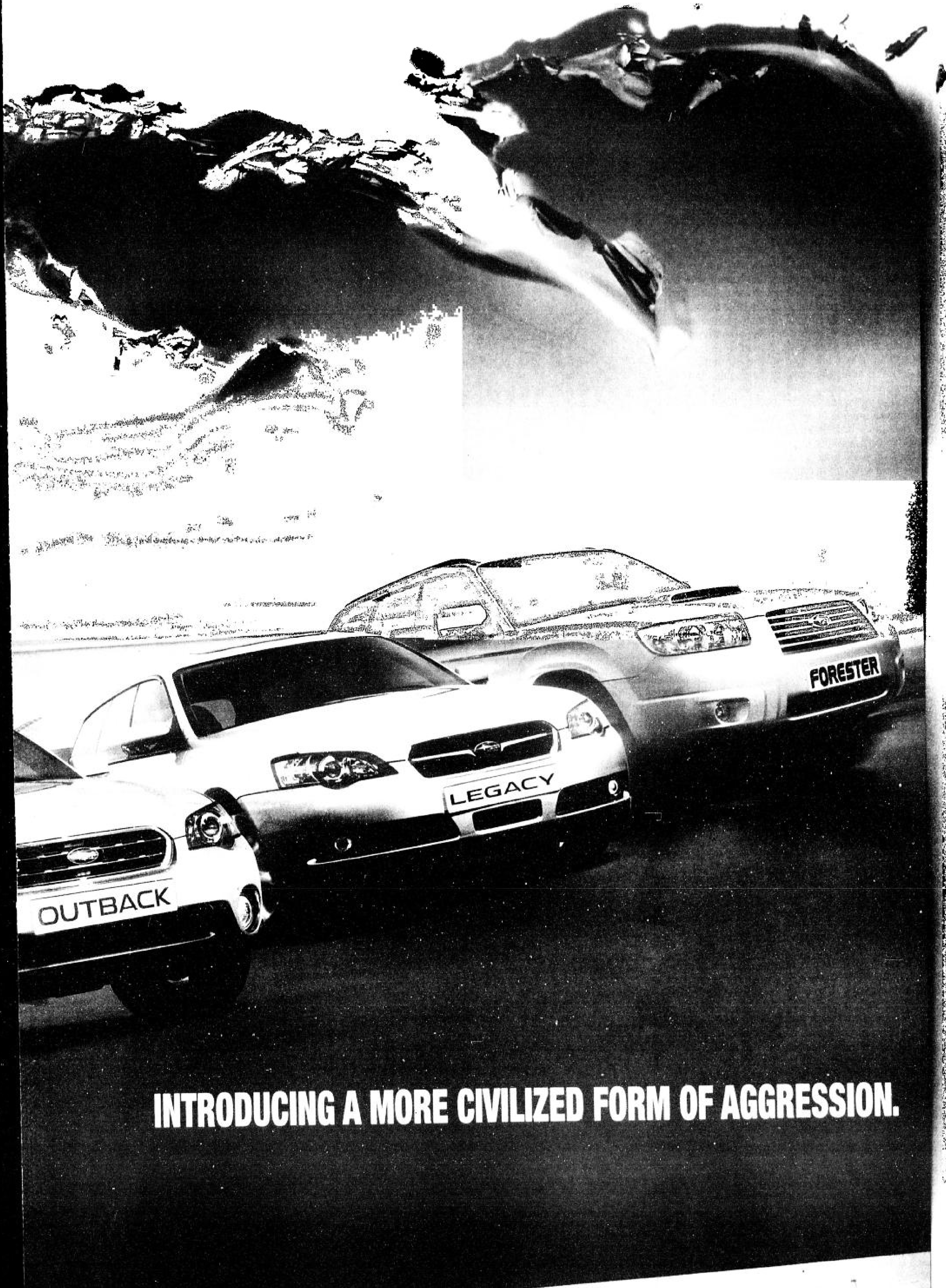
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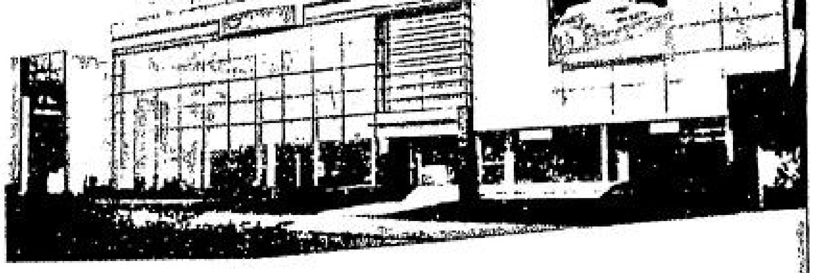

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OPINION

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Legitimacy still

EDITORIAL

THE COUNTRY'S CATHOLIC BISHOPS MAY BE pushing the people to mount another people power uprising, former Senate President Jovito Salonga warned. "The bishops are virtually telling the people there is no more hope," Salonga said following the refusal of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines to support the second attempt to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In their latest pastoral statement, the bishops said they were "not inclined" to support the impeachment process which was bound to be unproductive like the first one given the rules and the "mind-sets of all participating parties." But Salonga said that "for all its imperfections," impeachment was the only legal means for Ms Arroyo to answer allegations that she had stolen the 2004 elections. "If you close that avenue because of the official stand of the influential CBCP, there may be no other way open to the people than resort to people power," he said.

Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, who signed one of several new impeachment complaints against the President, echoed the same warning. Iñiguez said the people's desire to know the truth remains, so "if this constitutional means should fail, they will look for other avenues."

This is not the kind of warning that Malacañang and its allies in the House of Representatives are likely to heed. In fact, they are gloating over the CBCP's hands-off stance, with Speaker Jose de Venecia taking a big leap and proclaiming that the pastoral statement has "removed the moral basis for the new impeachment complaints." They know the opposition cannot gather the "critical mass" necessary for a people power uprising. It tried to do it several times last year and failed, and there is no reason to think it will succeed any time in the near future. For as much as Filipinos distrust administration officials, they have also grown cynical about the intentions of opposition leaders—just like the bishops—and they are not about to march in the streets to demand that the truth be told about the elections of 2004. And with a President who is hell-bent on blocking every effort—including that of the Senate—to ascertain the truth, the Filipino people may have to wait until 2010 to get the full story—but that is assuming they will elect a new leader who is less than friendly to Ms Arroyo.

They can find out the truth about 2004 earlier, if they want to—by next year in fact. They can do this by electing to Congress people who will support the President's impeachment. The opposition doesn't have to win the majority of seats in the House to impeach the President, all it needs are 80 votes and the impeachment complaint goes to the Senate.

With the new attempt to impeach Ms Arroyo facing certain defeat, the opposition should shift gears and focus their efforts on the 2007 elections. Opposition candidates can make the search for truth and justice the central issue of the campaign and hold the incumbents accountable for their vote in the impeachment complaint. This is better than the proposal of former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod to turn the 2007 polls into a referendum on the Arroyo administration, which would veer away from the issue of legitimacy and focus on the President's performance. After all, good works cannot legitimize a stolen victory, if indeed Ms Arroyo stole it as her critics have charged.

If the new impeachment effort is futile as the bishops seem to believe it is, it isn't exactly a useless exercise. It keeps the issue burning in the consciousness of the Filipino people. And if the people want to help unlock the secret that the administration wants to keep sealed, they will have that opportunity next year.

Death certificate

FOREIGN COMMENT

ISRAEL'S INTENSIFIED ATTACKS ON GAZA AND ITS SEIZURE OF a dozen Palestinian officials and lawmakers have drawn no reaction from the international community. For several days now, the Palestinians and their civil facilities have been the target of relentless Israeli onslaught, which imparts an unequivocal message to the Palestinians and to the outside world.

The Israelis have apparently taken advantage of the abduction of a 19-year-old soldier in order to write the death certificate for the Hamas-led government.

The world's silence is widely seen as a license to Israel to continue its wanton rampage with impunity.

The Egyptian Gazette (Cairo, Egypt)

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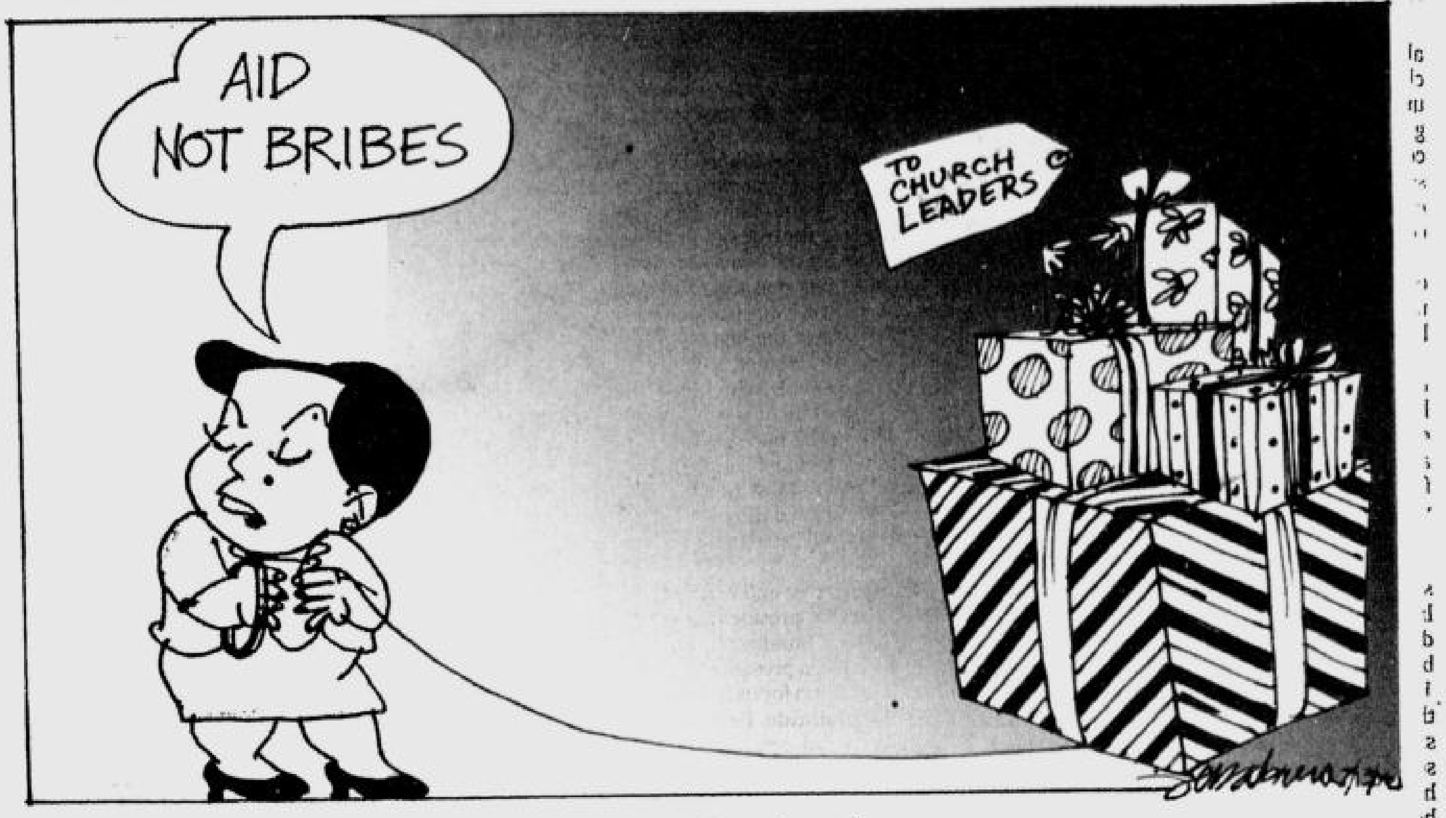

Bullies with diplomas

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

POLITICAL BULLIES ARE USUALLY SKINNED in this section of the INQUIRER. But this column is about school bullies, real ones—and how their cruelty blights lives long after diplomas start to fade.

At the Ateneo last week, Prof. Onofre Pagsanjan told his students that he attended the wake for Ramon Cordero Salvosa, 32. Who?

Many Ateneans today know Benjamin Salvosa III. He authored the textbook: "Called To Discover Our Christian Roots." He teaches a course, titled: "Living in a World of Lights and Shadows," about living in a world of good, marred by evil. But Ramon?

Actually, Ramon belonged to an amazing Ateneo honors class, Pagsanjan recalled. When there'd be Reading of Honors ceremonies, the whole class often mounted the stage. Ramon was No. 2 in that demanding cluster.

That was expected. In grade school, he'd tick off names of the US and Philippine presidents, in order, tossing in their middle names. "In grade school, when the teachers saw us they would say, 'Look, there's Ramon Salvosa and his brother,'" Benjie remembers.

In Grade 7, two transfer students joined this exceptional class. They too were bright. But they were also bullies who tormented classmates as nerds and weaklings. And they picked on the two brightest students: the overweight clumsy Ramon and the class president.

"Intelligence, unfortunately, does not mean kindness," Benjie writes. Those who were more intelligent and privileged can sometimes be more cruel than the average person.

One of the two withstood the bullying and graduated college at the top of his batch, Pagsanjan said. "The other, Ramon, was broken for life." (He) simply could not cope with unprovoked cruelty and drifted from school to school. "The psychological wounds of his trauma never healed." Only within his family did he feel safe from the jeering and bruising.

A battered Ramon left the Ateneo, and settled in their quiet PhilAm family home in Quezon City. He'd spend hours reading and writing in his father's office. In those years, "we got to know the real Ramon—a gentle soul that couldn't harm a fly and content with his books and long walks," Benjie said. And he "would walk for hours on end on his good days," Pagsanjan said. "But on the bad days, he would hear the taunting and jeering and ridiculing all over again. This went on for over 18 years of his life."

Ramon just didn't know how to fight back. And his classmates, teachers and school administrators did everything they could to stop the bullying, Benjie says. "But even they couldn't watch Ramon every minute of the day. He could not function like before. After a while, it became clear to us that he may never be able to return to school and be the way he was."

At his wake, Ateneo Honors Class 1989 class president—now Francis Alvarez of the Society of Jesus—told Ramon's mother, Carmen: "Mrs. Salvosa, I'm very sorry and would like to apologize that we were not able to assist and shield Ramon from the bullies that tormented him at the grade school. I was also a target of those same bullies. They used to lock me in the rest room."

"The darkness that had engulfed Ramon led him to regard his home here in PhilAm and the park here where he walked every day, as an enclave, a sanctuary where no one would hurt him any further," his father Jerry said.

"That was the boy we lost: so exuberant, so spontaneous and so keen about learning," his father added in the family response after the funeral Mass. We lost ... the promise of a life that was supposed to be a joyful journey into an unlimited world of learning."

Periodically, in those 18 crippled years, darkness would sweep over Ramon. The voices of his tormentors screamed through his head. In that recurring dark night, there'd be two lights for Ramon.

"My father, Jerry, was always present to him and there for him," Benjie recalls. The other was my mother Carmen who took care of him day and night. Every night, she'd check on Ramon. If ill, she'd pray the rosary over him."

In the last two weeks of his life, darkness swept over Ramon. The old cruel jeers re-echoed unceasingly in his head. For 18 years, Ramon's mother patiently brought him to confession. Now, Carmen convinced him to go to the sacrament of reconciliation, this time to specifically forgive the tormentors who still haunted him. "I have forgiven them," he said after what was to be his last confession.

"With hindsight, we wish we had told Ramon, that these were the times to act instinctively, just like an angry dog," the father told those gathered for the wake.

"In times of peace, sons bury their fathers," my father would often say. "In times of war, fathers bury their sons. There must be a war. Because I had just buried my son today, dead at the hands of violent men. There must be a war .... It is the war that Ramon could not comprehend or grasp: a war against unprovoked, deliberate cruelty and viciousness."

In an admirable expression of constrained grief, Pagsanjan told his class. "Our Father in heaven must have looked down with much gentleness and love on this grieving father. God, the Father, would understand him. For He too had a son who was bullied on the cross."

Friends and Ateneo students today ask the Salvosas: How do you feel? "Of course, we're sad and miss seeing him around," they reply. "But at the same time, we are happy because he'll never hear those voices again: no more hurt, no more pain. It means Ramon will never fall into the darkness again and forever be in the light."

* * *

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Sightings

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE CELEBRATIONS THAT ERUPTED, OR were whipped up, in the wake of Manny Pacquiao's victory over Oscar Larios last week suddenly made me think of *aswangs*. Indeed, the whole phenomenon of Pacquiao becoming the quintessential Filipino hero, knocking off (pun intended, teeth flying and all) the self-effacing Efren "Bata" Reyes for the honor, made me think of *aswangs*. That is not as facetious as it sounds.

Aswang sightings have a sanguine (pun intended as well, *komiks*-type blood-curdling gore and all) history in this country, appearing—if sociologists are to be believed—in dire times, when people are hungry and desperate. The *manananggal*, an underworld creature that leaves the lower half of its female body in some secret nook while its upper half forages for prey, drawn in particular by the smell of the unborn fetus, is the usual MFO or much-identified flying object there. On dark, rainy and moonless nights, or sometimes even in light, dry and moonlit ones, it can be seen in a haze swooping jaggedly across the skyline, or be heard flapping its wings as it alights on a roof.

The sightings normally take place in the countryside, but to go by reports on tabloids and (crime) TV, they have also been known on occasion to happen in the dark alleys of shantytowns. They galvanize the community to action, the local leaders organizing night vigils. I do not know if they hold torches aloft, like in the movies, or croak in imitation Transylvanian accents. I do know they scour secluded places in hopes of discovering the *manananggal's* lair. The belief being that if the lower half of its body is laden with salt, the upper half would no longer be able to reconnect to it and perish in the sunlight.

I don't know if any community has actually destroyed an *aswang*. The stories about the sightings disappear from the newspaper readers' sight or the TV viewers' view far more suddenly than the *aswangs* themselves from the eyes of their spine-tingled beholders. But not after giving the community the satisfaction of having done something about a most monstrous threat to their lives, notably to that of their newborns or about-to-be-borns.

Sociologists explain it thus: It has nothing to do with people having hallucinations from hunger pangs. It has everything to do with people projecting their fears into something tangible that they can do something about. Life's problems are far too complex and people are at their wits' end trying to make sense of them, let alone solve them. Easier to fight *aswangs*. For all their horrific aspects, the *aswangs* can be vanquished with garlic, crucifix and (drunken) machismo. You defeat *aswangs*—the sign of victory being simply that they are no longer sighted after the vigil and vigilance—you gain a token or vicarious victory over life's problems.

Pacquiao's feats, or fists, are not unlike that. Of course, there's the aspect as well of his having become the ideal Filipino Everyman because he embodies the hopes of the bedraggled poor about how to escape their lot. Or quite literally how to fight their way out of their plight. It's nothing new. Every impoverished Brazilian too—and they are legion—dreams of becoming another Ronaldo, a poor kid who used to play football barefoot in an obscure street in Rio and who went on to become one of the greatest players of the "beautiful game." Which meant being fabulously rich apart from being fabulously famous. Not everyone can become a Ronaldo, or a Pacquiao, but as the song goes, "I can dream, can't I?"

More than that—which is the reason the current regime has capitalized on Pacquiao's fortunes—Pacquaio has also become, or been turned, into the token, vicarious, substitute way of dealing with the country's problems. GMA's congratulatory words to Pacquiao after he beat Larios to a pulp were explicit in that thought. She wished, she said, that Filipinos would emulate Pacquiao and conquer their enemies, or their nation's problems, with heart and fist. Of course, she did not compare herself to Larios when she exhorted her countrymen to do that.

Pacquaio's enemies are not unlike *aswangs*, however they take on rock-like solidity in the ring rather than flit about like phantoms in the night. For all their horrific aspects, particularly in the form of Marco Antonio Barrera, Juan Manuel Marquez and Erik Morales—Larios was just cannon fodder—they can be vanquished with blood and guts, heart and fist, muscle and machismo. Unlike grinding poverty whose solution is unknown and unknowable, the enemy is right there waiting to be pummeled. Unlike powerlessness whose solution is elusive and unclear, the enemy is right there waiting to be tackled. Unlike life's problems, which are far too complex (people are at their wits' end trying to make sense of them, let alone solve them), the enemy is identifiable, understandable, beatable.

I'm not knocking *aswangs* and boxing as people's ways of dealing with crushing reality. They are coping mechanisms, and heaven knows we all can do with ways to cope with the nightmarish pass we find ourselves in today. But the danger is when the projection becomes the injection, when the invention becomes the intervention, when the temporary illusion becomes the permanent reality. The danger is when the escape substitutes for the living. *Aswang* sightings have not been very plentiful these days but Pacquiao sightings, particularly in the form of ads, are so. That's fine, so long as we do not forget that there are far more real *aswangs* right there who have been sinking their fangs into our necks all this time; and far more vicious enemies who have been bludgeoning us to a bloody pulp all this time. We forget that, we'll end up bled dry among the bushes of history.

We forget that, we'll end up TKOed by life.

Bishops are pragmatic people

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF the Philippines, in a "Pastoral Letter on Social Concerns," which was issued after its recent plenary assembly, said it was "not inclined at the present moment to favor the impeachment process" as the means for establishing the truth about the allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo cheated in the 2004 elections. The CBCP said that unless all participating parties, pro and con, "are guided by other motives than the genuine concern for the common good," it would once again serve "as an unproductive exercise, dismaying every citizen and deepening (their) negative perception of politicians Left, Right and Center."

The opposition was doubtless quite frustrated over the CBCP stand, but it's clear the bishops do not believe that the opposition leaders are guided by a "genuine concern for the common good." It's clear that the bishops perceive that the opposition politicians seeking Ms Arroyo's ouster are only after their own selfish agenda; and that another move to impeach the President will only bring about greater instability and hinder economic reforms and programs. Clearly, the bishops do not want to be used by any selfish interest.

* * *

The bishops must have been guided by their sense of pragmatism. They obviously do not believe the second impeachment can prosper; so, despite their divine calling, they do not want to be party to a lost cause. In fact, even the Hyatt 10 has abandoned the call for GMA's ouster through impeachment, and has gone back to singing their old refrain: that GMA "make the supreme sacrifice and voluntarily relinquish her office." But that prospect also looks quite hopeless to the group, for now it is proposing the holding of a snap presidential election. The arrogance of its members is unbelievable.

* * *

Many pundits have noted how recent events are unraveling in GMA's favor. The capture of six Magdalo soldiers in their hideout near the Batasan and the release of the tape of detained Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim have doubtless discouraged more House members from going to the side of the opposition. Lim's tape has reinforced the justification for the issuance of Proclamation 1017—in defense of the beleaguered State. Thus, it's predictable that the impeachment move will be killed in the House Committee on Justice.

But perhaps, the biggest reason the impeachment move is doomed is that—despite the sizable number of people who do not believe in or like GMA—most Filipinos would rather see her finish her term in the hope she could completely turn around the economy, than support any destabilization move. Most people want closure to the cheating issue, so the country can move on. Our leaders should listen to them.

* * *

Cecile Alvarez and I recently invited Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, presidential economic adviser, to guest in our Sunday 9:15 p.m. radio program over dzRH. His presence in the program proved to be a lot of fun for us and, doubtless, for our audience nationwide. First, the 44-year-old, third-term Albay congressman, a graduate of management engineering from the Ateneo and of business management from the Asian Institute of Management, revealed that on his mother's side, he has a lot of relatives who are religious nuns. We quipped that they must be busy keeping him out of mischief with their prayers.

* * *

Salceda also reveled in the fact that his native Bicol region has moved up from being the second poorest after Muslim Mindanao to the fourth poorest, with 246,000 families freed from poverty during GMA's term. That Bicol is being rescued from the bottom is, I should think, fitting and long-overdue, for it boasts of a powerhouse pack of legislators. Aside from Salceda, who's quite influential with GMA, there's Sen. Joker Arroyo, the lion of the Estrada impeachment and who has become even more influential now that the Wednesday Group is about to come into power, so to speak, with Sen. Manny Villar taking the Senate helm. In fact, some pundits read this group's influence as extending to Malacañang, after its members had a cozy dinner with GMA about 10 days ago. Then there are Representatives Luis Villafuerte and Edcel Lagman, among the top legal luminaries in last year's anti-impeachment team.

* * *

We asked Salceda about the P64 billion that the senators had cut from the 2006 national budget. The cut prompted GMA to threaten to veto the budget if it were passed by Congress. Salceda stressed that in reality what the senators cut was P129 billion. More on Salceda's views.

* * *

Margie Pengson Juico, a close associate of former President Corazon Aquino, called to deny a perception—aired here by some quarters—that CBCP president Angel Lagdameo is close to Ms Aquino and is anti-GMA because of the influence of Margie, whose mother is a Lagdameo. She said that her perceived closeness to the prelate, while flattering, is not based on facts. The truth, she said, is that if they were to meet at a gathering, he may not be able to recognize her. Besides, there are many other Lagdameo relatives quite close to GMA. Among them are Cynthia Carrion-Norton, GMA's physical fitness mentor; new ambassador to Mexico Antonio Lagdameo; Chris Carrion, co-chair of the Edsa People Power Commission, and Marilou L. Varona, GMA's correspondence secretary.

Bishops treated as hacks?

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

IF IT IS TRUE THAT SOMEONE HAD BEEN distributing money envelopes—supposedly from Malacañang—to members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines during their retreat and plenary assembly, I hold the bishops partly to blame. How could this have happened?

According to an INQUIRER news report yesterday by Christian V. Esguerra, a bishop (described as "soft-spoken" and "low-key") admitted having been handed an envelope by a "casual-looking" man who had introduced himself as a messenger "from Malacañang."

How could the bishops or their personnel allow in an outsider during their retreat and deliberations on a much-awaited statement? Why was this Mr. Moneybag allowed to walk around and distribute envelopes containing between P20,000 and P30,000? If this indeed happened or was allowed to happen, then one could only conclude that the bishops were caught unawares or "*tatanga-tanga*." Sorry, but that is the translation in Filipino and its root word does not sound nice.

If they were in conclave electing a pope, word would have gotten out before white smoke could come out of the chimney.

And why didn't anyone raise a howl right there and then? The bishops were after all in their territory. They were not guests in a place where decorum would have dictated that they did not embarrass their host with an uproar. If I were on the receiving end, I would have roared, "Who the devil sent you?!" or "Begone, Satan!" then called security and staff to help investigate who the uninvited guest was.

This was an incident that would have merited wrath not so unlike the wrath Jesus displayed in the temple when he saw it being defiled by those trying to earn a few bucks in a sacred place. There was a proper place for such activities, Jesus said, in the same way that there is a proper manner to send donations to bishops.

Whoever was the devil who sent the money envelopes during that occasion, one thing is evident—that person/those persons had no respect for the bishops. The bishops were looked upon and treated as mere hacks that could be paid, bought, bribed and made to look like spineless fools lacking in virility—which they are not. Try saying that in Filipino.

One could say, well, that goes with forays into political territory where money talks. This is not to say that those in the Church hierarchy have no business speaking on secular and political issues. But how have some individual bishops been comporting themselves in relation to the unending political fracas? Hmmm, one too many trying-hard wannabes, if you ask me. But this is my own biased perception.

"It was revolting, I felt insulted," the bishop who comes from a poor diocese said. "*Medyo garapal.*" (Quite brazen.) I wish the bishop had allowed our reporter to name him.

The envelopes were reportedly inserted into bishops' pockets; and when they returned to their rooms, they were surprised to find money inside the envelopes. Some said they were going to return the money.

To whom?

Yes, beware of strangers inserting anything into your clothing, books, bags and other personal belongings. In airports, stations, malls and even hallowed places where bishops pray and meet.

The news report said that as early as Monday, last week, the eve of the CBCP retreat that was to be followed by a plenary session, some Malacañang representatives (OK, plural now) were already seen loitering at the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center. This was according to a bishop who had rejected an envelope offered to him. The "messengers" approached bishops during break time and offered "livelihood" money.

Livelihood? What could P20,000 to P30,000 do for livelihood? The bishop-informant was right—the amount was not for livelihood projects but for the individual bishops' personal use.

Malacañang merely laughed off the report about the messengers who offered envelopes. Were they impostors then? If Malacañang didn't send them, who did?

Now presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor is saying that henceforth donations would be directly given to bishops or the diocesan social action centers (SACs). This was supposed to be the suggestion of governors, mayors and NGOs. This was supposed to prevent jealousy among local officials and NGOs.

At least one bishop, Parañaque's Bishop Jesse Mercado, has said that he has rejected offers of medicine, rice, noodles and other stuff offered by the Arroyo administration. Indeed, why give these to the bishops when there are government agencies that can handle these? Sure, in a disaster situation, the diocesan SACs could act as conduits, but nowadays when the color of money is the color of politics, the Church should be more circumspect and safely suspicious.

On the other side of the globe, Pope Benedict XVI did not mince words when he spoke at the huge two-day family rally in Valencia, Spain. He repeatedly condemned threats to the so-called traditional family, among them, same-sex marriage and fast-track divorce. Alas, nothing was heard about the clear and present danger that is the physical fragmentation of families as a result of parents leaving home to work in foreign lands. Global economics have taken a toll on poor families. Disparities in the wealth of nations have forced millions of parents to leave their children in order to give them a better life.

* * *

INQUIRER's topnotch sports columnist Recah Trinidad will launch "Pacific Storm," his book on the life and rise of boxing champ Manny Pacquiao at 6 p.m. today, July 13, at the National Book Store in Shangri-la Mall on Edsa.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Pawn-feeding time

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THE APPOINTMENT OF TARLAC REP. JESLI Lapus as secretary of education brings down to 77 the number of votes required to send articles of impeachment to the Senate. Never has the bar been set so low and yet seemingly unattainable. One reason is that the pressure on members of the House of Representatives remains divorced from the unpopularity of the President: some political observers are of the opinion that supporting an unpopular President will never be a political liability for members of the House. The congressmen know it and act accordingly. Many are the blessings to be gained for continuing to pooh-pooh impeachment, as Nueva Ecija Rep. Rodolfo Antonino Ecija fully knows (as part of the President's party in Rome, he was seen wearing a broad smile).

However, the administration's behavior in recent weeks showed continued nervousness on its part, and increasing ruthlessness in dealing with allies who have come to be perceived as liabilities. But then, what are pawns for, if not victims to be offered up as strategic sacrifices? It's pawn-feeding time.

The war on the Catholic Church has proven fruitful: so long as the bishops remain divided, their words can be downplayed. What does it matter if some bishops were offended, as one bishop put it, by the offer of cash envelopes? What's important is that bishops are portrayed as not beyond the temptation of cash. That perception, once planted in the minds of the public, can only erode the credibility of whatever they say. In the time of Ferdinand Marcos, for every Jaime Cardinal Sin who became increasingly critical, there was always a Julio Cardinal Rosales to fawn on the ruling couple. The same applies today, resulting in, at the very least, a pastoral statement that can still be spun in helpful ways.

Releasing the video of Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, while disproving the existence of a "Leftist-Rightist conspiracy," let loose a cloud to follow Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga and a downpour on every one of his going-away parades.

Every officer has been warned that military discipline should be along the lines of Gen. Fabian Ver's famous (though apocryphal) response to Marcos' order for him to jump out the window: "From which floor, Sir?" The Commander in Chief's expectations of obedience are indeed strict.

The question of a conspiracy can be addressed through the apprehension of escapees: there, the administration can claim, was a conspiracy, though how they could have accomplished their aims by being on the run remains unanswered. What official revelations suggest is that those captured may have been full of bravura, but pretty far from actually accomplishing anything. Though I really wonder how many Filipinos would weep were Congress to be held at gunpoint—not even the President's local government allies, themselves constantly at odds with congressmen, would mind.

There, too, was the rather clever sidestepping of a Supreme Court deadline by throwing the least partisan—and controversial—of Comelec commissioners to the wolves. And now, reports of the arrest of Joc-Joc Bolante, the one administration-identified individual who served as a living antidote to all the hysterics aimed by the President's supporters at critics like Dinky Soliman (déclassé as she is, can you honestly find her more reprehensible than Bolante?). The pawns are indeed plentiful, and handing them over one by one not only buys time, but further clouds the issues.

A recent survey by the Social Weather Stations says that the President's unpopularity has significantly decreased from -25 in March of this year, to -13 as of June. It's a big improvement, bringing her a couple of steps higher, but still pretty deep in the basement of public opinion.

Her unpopularity has significantly increased in Metro Manila, sinking to an unprecedented -48 as of June; and what's of greater significance, her unpopularity has increased among those formerly considered the bulwark of her support base: the ABC classes. Those classes had her at -17 in March; as of June, her unpopularity stood at -27, which is a big change. The only times she's been more unpopular, apparently, were in December of 2000 and May of last year.

So while the President can breathe a sigh of relief that the masses are less inclined to lynch her, it's still not saying much. In the Visayas, her regional bailiwick outside of Pampanga, public opinion seems statistically neutral: she has a +2 rating, a big improvement from the -12 she had in March. Mindanao, too, showed a large shift, from -32 to to -7. Negative numbers aren't something to boast about in a democracy, where the Americans for example, are heaping scorn on George W. Bush for having a rating in the low 30s: he's never hit negative numbers but it seems scandalous to Americans that they have a president disliked by roughly 70 percent of the population. Here at home, the chief executive knows she's luckier.

It doesn't matter that more people dislike her than like her, so long as those who don't like her fail to reach a critical mass. As it stands, those who are satisfied with the President comprise 34 percent of the population; those who are dissatisfied, 48 percent. Subtracting one from the other is why the SWS can conclude that the President's net satisfaction stood at -13 as of June.

It's all a matter of, as the song goes, "how low can you go?" Like singing "Limbo Rock" at a beach party, the surveys only serve to show that the stick of public opinion can be held lower and lower, but the President will find a way to slide underneath, without falling on her back. And that's because she recognized, earlier than most, that our democracy operates not on what majorities you hold, but the stubbornness of the minorities you can retain.

Different worlds

YOUNG BLOOD

Ruel Punongbayan

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

"WHAT DO YOU GET FROM HELPING THESE POOR PEOPLE—fulfillment ?" my friend demanded.

"No, I just love ..." I began to say, but he cut me off.

"Stop. Nonsense. They are helpless. Anyway, have you seen the pictures of people I've met and the places I've been to in Friendster?"

"Yes, the pictures were great."

"Now, that's fulfillment!"

I was talking on the phone with an old college buddy, whom I hadn't seen in eight years. He was reacting to the update I had given him: I was working for a non-government organization pushing for agrarian reform and rural development and I had spent some of my good years assisting the peasants and the indigenous people in their struggle to acquire the lands they till.

Pocholo (Choy) and I got to be friends when we were studying at the University of the Philippines in Diliman several years ago. I hadn't seen him since we went our separate ways during our sophomore year. I shifted to public administration, while Choy took up mass communications. But even then, I already knew he would make it big, primarily because of his talent: he could mimic voices of famous celebrities and persons (he could make good old Willy Nepomuceno sound like an amateur, no kidding). During our college days, he was already dubbing voices for foreign cartoons scheduled for showing on local TV.

Although he was from Bataan, Choy was not your typical down-to-earth *promdi*. He was cocky but very sociable at the same time. Whenever he got his paycheck for dubbing those cartoons, he would take me out for a dinner of spicy *calderetain* a *carinderia* at the back of Vinzons Hall or we would pig out on food bought from the "Aristocart" in front of Narra Residence Hall.

A few weeks before our first phone conversation after years of being incommunicado, Choy had sent me a message requesting for his name's inclusion on my list of friends from a well-known online social network. Surprised, I quickly did as he requested and sent him my cell phone number along with a hello-how-do-you-do message. Browsing through his account, I saw pictures of him taken all over the world, with famous landmarks in the background. Reading through, I learned that after graduating, he put up a company which sources out voices and sound effects for cartoons and other productions both local and foreign. It was obvious that Choy was, to use his own words, "big time" now.

"There's no money in development work," he told me. "Look at me, aren't you envious? I have lots of money."

"Certainly not," I replied. "I love my work and my heart goes to the people I serve. But I'm happy for you, bro. You've come a long way."

"Quit your job and enjoy life," he urged me. "Life is too short, dude."

"I will not quit my job," I told him firmly. "Life is too short indeed, and that is why I'm making the most of it."

There was silence on the other side. He must have hung up. Odd, I said to myself.

I went back to my computer and wondered what happened to Choy. Wasn't he being too arrogant? Was he the same guy I used to hang out with? Where was he coming from?

I kept going back to our brief conversation. After a while, my thoughts began to focus on myself. Maybe it was me who had changed. What happened to me?

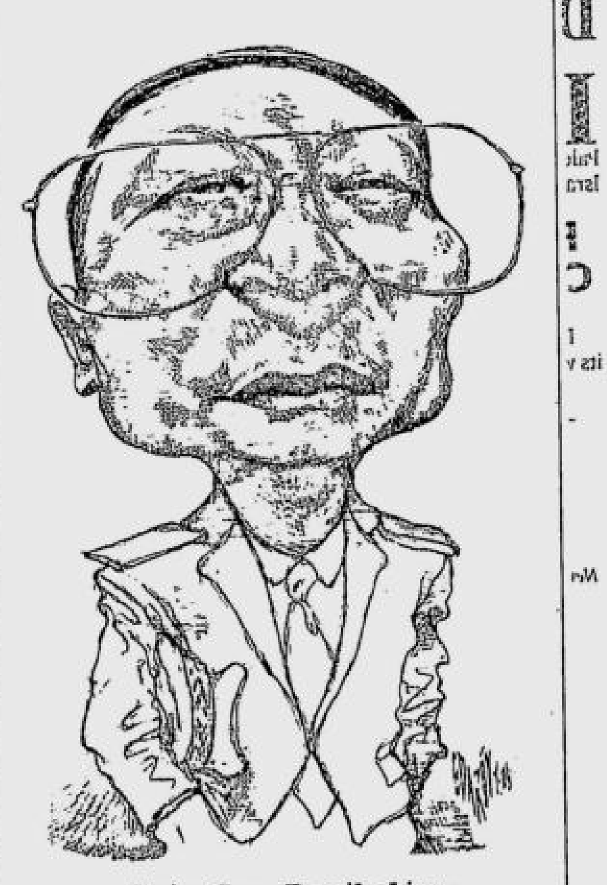
I was a bit confused, to be honest about it. To help me think and process the things running in my head, I made myself a cup of chamomile tea. I was taking my third sip when I found it. I was like an enlightened Archimedes sitting in his tub.

I realized that Choy and I hadn't changed. We were the same persons as before. He was still a maverick and quick with words, while I was still laid-back and reflective. It was just that we were in two different worlds now. We looked at things from different perspectives. He saw poor people as statistics while I knew the names and the lines on the faces of those people. He was in awe of the design of landmarks he visited while I appreciated the hard labor expended and the stories behind these feats. He enjoyed his living while I celebrated life.

I sighed with relief as I recognized this truth; it is not every day that I learn a new lesson in life. And with a smile on my face, I went on with my work.

Ruel Punongbayan, 28, is a program monitoring officer at the Project Development Institute, an NGO advocating agrarian reform and rural development.

IN THE NEWS



Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim

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Who has the right to complain

DOES ONE WELL-LIT LAMPPOST on a dark city block really make a difference?

I lived in the United States for 17 years, the last nine years in New York City. I returned home to Manila in August 2003, more American than my Filipino family and friends could ever dare imagine or easily accept (albeit I remained fluent in the Filipino language). If there is one thing that America has imprinted in me, it's the idea that if you are unhappy with a situation, you have no right to complain unless you are willing to do something to address it.

I noticed that a stretch of De La Rosa Street, between Legaspi Street and Makati Avenue, was pitch-black at night. Since I walk whenever I can to avoid traffic, it caused me some discomfort to walk on a dimly lit street—in the central business district no less.

On May 11, I e-mailed Rick Yupangco of Ayala Land, requesting him to speak to the Ayala Museum management to keep its building lights on after 9 p.m. Knowing how slow everything happens in the Philippines, I braced myself for a long wait, thinking realistically that this street should be lit by December 2006.

Around June 16, I noticed a lamppost in the middle of the block, across Ayala Museum, illuminating the once dark street. I thank the group of people who made this happen. Congratulations!

If you want to change this country, you have to change the beliefs, attitudes, priorities, values, methods and ideas that do not work. Filipinos have a proclivity to accept things because "that's how they've always been," while perpetually complaining about their less than ideal state of affairs. Even the things we don't want to accept, we somehow manage to tolerate (a character trait known in Filipino as "*matiisin*"). You really have to wonder how far this attitude can take us.

If you love your country, put your effort into caring about the small things that matter. If you cannot fix the small things, there is not a chance in the heavens you will ever be able to fix the big things. I didn't enjoy walking in the dark; neither did my fellow Filipinos. But I claimed my right, as a tax-paying citizen, to the social benefit of a well-lit street.

If you want the Philippines to catch up with the rest of our neighbors in Asia, arm your strong faith with goal-oriented action. Doing the right thing is not always easy. And in a country whose moral compass is not exactly in order, doing the right thing is also oftentimes unpopular. But I am a God-fearing Christian before I am a Filipino, so I have to stand by biblical ideals even if they run counter to the prevailing Pinoy culture.

Don't belittle your efforts. Over time, your vigilance adds up and sets a good example for people who will one day lead this country.

I am a natural cynic yet I have tremendous hope for the Philippines. This country and its people are far too beautiful for me to lose hope in them. There will be better days ahead for all Filipinos, not just some.

And yes, a lone light shining in the darkness makes a difference. Ask anyone who had tripped walking in the dark in the middle of the night, going to the bathroom.

—TINA VITAS,
Makati City

Use part of education loan to upgrade textbook quality

THE WORLD BANK RECENTLY extended a $200-million loan to the Philippine government "to address the declining quality of basic education." The money, it said, would be used to train the education system's staff in financial accountability, improve teaching standards and raise the quality of key courses such as English, Science and Mathematics.

It is the people's hope that this loan will really be used according to the purpose for which it is intended. Being the lender, hence, the one setting the terms and conditions of the loan, the World Bank can compel the Department of Education to use part of the loan to improve the quality of the content of all textbooks used in Philippine schools, both public and private.

In economics, you start with the land; in education, you start with the books. Most of our locally published textbooks contain many serious errors that, because of the laxity or indifference of public and private education officials, go unchecked and get to be passed on as Gospel truth from generation to generation of unsuspecting students. This is precisely why the quality of education in our country has been declining over the years. The proliferation of defective textbooks is one problem that is crying out for a swift and permanent solution.

Who knows what textbooks are being used in our schools at present? Are they really of good quality? The last official "List of Approved Textbooks" was released in the year 2000 (DECS Order No. 35) under then Education Secretary Andrew Gonzalez. There had been none released after that. Why is that?

The DepEd, for the sake of transparency, must make public its official "List of Approved Textbooks for Use in All Public Schools for the School Year 2006-2007." These textbooks must likewise be made available and accessible at all times to anyone who wishes to review them for quality of content. (And why not? These are, after all, public school textbooks bought with public funds.)

The public has every right to be granted these two simple requests. To deliberately withhold any part of the truth from someone who has the right to know is to lie to him.

—ANTONIO CALIPJO GO,
academic supervisor,
Marian School of Quezon City,
199 Sauyo Road,
Novaliches, Quezon City

Don't blame Church for taking up cudgels vs jueteng

THANKS TO THE INQUIRER FOR its report on the *jueteng* operations in Nueva Vizcaya. (PDI 6/27/06) It revealed the kind of government we have today. It is dismaying to see that the Church has to attend to something that is the primary responsibility of the government.

As what Bishop Ramon Villena said, the government is incompetent in stopping illegal gambling in their place. But this is true not only in Nueva Vizcaya; this is also true anywhere in this country.

I don't believe in police reports that jueteng in the country has been minimized or totally stopped. When people want to complain about jueteng, they can't go to the police, some of whom act as "protectors" of the illegal operation. So the people have only the Church, the real protectors of the people, to turn to.

—JHAY SEBASTIAN,
beejaysiako@hotmail.com)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

GMA's war on poverty doubted

THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL COordination Board came out recently with a list of the top 10 poorest provinces. Seven of these provinces are located in the Mindanao region, two in the Visayas and one in Luzon. The list should give the national government an idea as to where it should pour its resources to solve widespread poverty, hunger and malnutrition in the country.

The "Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food" (approved in November 2004 by the Food and Agriculture Organization council) is clear: "Where poverty and hunger are predominantly rural, States should focus on sustainable agricultural and rural development through measures (that) improve access to land, water, appropriate and affordable technologies, productive and financial resources."

However, it is obvious that the Arroyo administration has been focusing its "anti-poverty efforts" on areas that are less poor, albeit more prone to political restiveness. For example, in the Food for School program being implemented nationwide, the biggest number of beneficiaries—some 20,000 in all—are residents of the National Capital Region. Compare this number to that of Caraga, which has 6,748 beneficiaries, or to that of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao with its 8,325 beneficiaries. The Department of Education wanted to favor regions poorer than the NCR, but Palace officials had the final say.

Or take a look at the targeted 16,000 jobs which presidential adviser on job creation Arthur Yap announced. (PDI, 5/4/06) He said P500 million will be released for road-clearing work to create jobs in Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog. Again, these relatively well-off regions were chosen possibly because these are places where there are strong anti-GMA forces.

If the President is really serious in liberating the Filipino people from poverty, she should focus on regions like Bicol, Caraga, ARMM or the Zamboanga Peninsula which have smaller internal revenue allotments and tax base.

—RAFFY REY HIPOLITO,
policy advocacy officer,
Foodfirst Information & Action
Network-Philippines,
9B Matulungin St.,
Barangay Central, Quezon City

Intriguing form of cover-up

IT WAS ECSTASY FOR ME TO watch the "I-Witness" episode on the Lukayo, to see empowered women in the outskirts of our cities, doing rituals that freely express their sexuality. I wanted to know more about similar rituals, many of which deal with phallic symbols that represent either fertility or simply a way to respond to the forces of nature. Thanks to Ramon Obusan. Thanks also to Howie Severino.

I was intrigued by how much I have yet to learn from our past as a people and how much I have to unlearn of the morals and taboos that have been taught to me by our social institutions. Who could have imagined rural women brandishing in the streets and poking at each other those self-made phallic symbols? Women activists in the cities might as well imagine these as useful advocacy materials for the agenda on sexuality and reproductive health.

Certainly, only those who do not skirt around the issue can be responsible in handling the issue. Who could have imagined such ritual as acceptable in that particular community (except for the outsider parish priest) and likewise, understandable to most husbands of the Lukayos? Gender advocates might as well imagine these husbands as potential campaigners for gender equality.

But certainly, the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board can't imagine any of these scenes being flashed on television screens. Hence, it considered the documentary offensive. On the other hand, it seems easy for the MTRCB to imagine and tolerate television shows that treat the bodies of women no differently from brandy, cigarettes, briefcases, etc.

I can't help but be reminded of the Metro Manila Development Authority's multi-layered pastel-colored drawings conspicuously painted over red graffiti that demand wage hikes, a stop to political killings, the ouster of the government, etc. Graffiti that should intrigue us of what the nation has become and what government institutions try to hide.

The MTRCB's suspension of "I-Witness" because of the Lukayo episode is an attempt, conscious or unwitting, to bury something that is part of our culture as a people. I sure hope such act would give us more reason to be "teased."

—AYEL LEYESA,
Bukaisining
(Buhay Kalayaan Sining),
tubongbarako@yahoo.com

Officials no longer with UCPB

MAY WE CALL YOUR ATTENTION to the story on the legal action initiated by Joelle Pelaez, in which two persons named in her suit were referred to as UCPB executives. (PDI, 7/6/06)

The two left UCPB several years ago: Lorenzo Tan in February 2002; and Rafael Bueno in September 2003.

Since they are no longer connected with the bank, the story's description of the two is not entirely accurate and could be misleading.

May we, therefore, respectfully request that this be corrected and that, in the future, the two be referred to as former UCPB officials or executives.

—RICARDO Y. LEPATAN JR.,
assistant vice president and head,
Corporate Communications,
United Coconut Planters Bank,
7907 Makati Avenue, Makati City

Was June Inquirer's Ruffa month?

IF JUNE WAS DECLARED THE INquirer's "Ruffa Gutierrez Month," then I missed that bit of news. But if not, then *tama na, sobra na*, OA *na*!

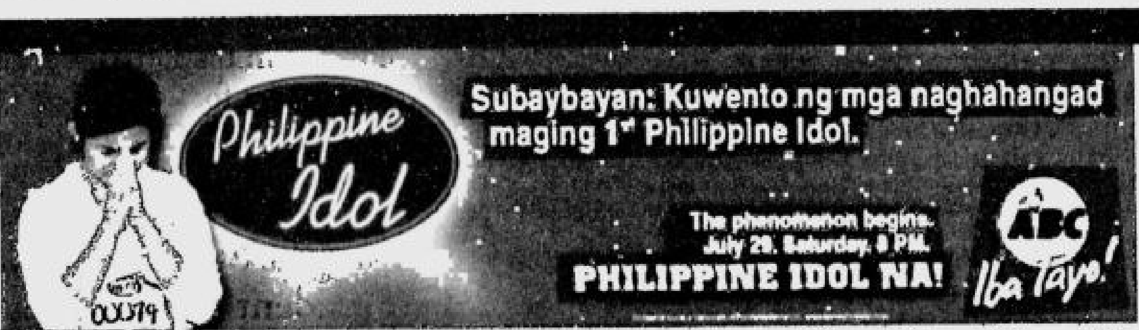
From June 19 to 30, four feature articles about the actress were published on the Super! and Entertainment sections. Sure, there are people out there who care about how much her gowns cost, how her family's vacation abroad went, how much gold she'd get from her hubby if their marriage fails, the who's who and the what's what at her birthday party, etc. But why should she get such an excessive amount of publicity from the country's leading newspaper, which is supposed to provide its readers "balanced news, fearless views"?

Let me make it clear that I'm not against Ruffa being featured in whatever section of this paper. To a certain extent, I do appreciate and am proud of her. After all, she brought honor to the country by almost winning an international pageant a l-o-o-o-o-ng time ago. I just think that, as of the moment, there is nothing really newsworthy going on in her life; so why the inordinate attention given to her by the INQUIRER within that 12-day period? Isn't too much of anything bad?

Not everybody is like Tim Yap, a die-hard "Ruffanian" who tends to praise his good friend to high heavens (as shown in his June 24 tribute-article "From Asia to Europe—every day!" Super!, Page E1).

The pages of the INQUIRER could well carry other lifestyle features; INQUIRER readers deserve better. Please let the month of July contain something new.

—CLAUDE LUCAS
C. DESPABILADERAS,
claudelucas2003@yahoo.com



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV Guide
Thursday, July 13, 2006

Subaybayan: Kuwento ng mga naghahangad maging 1st Philippine Idol.

The phenomenon begins. July 29. Saturday. 8 PM.
PHILIPPINE IDOL NA!

ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				National Geographic	V League				Sentro	Worst Case Scenario	S O S		Wala Yan Sa Lolo Ko		Big News	Dokyu			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr Bean	Naruto	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	My Girl		A Love To Kill		Bandila	
AXN		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 4)		CSI: Miami (Season 1)		30 Seconds To Fame	Samsung Sports World	Amazon		Andromeda (Season V)		Mondo Magic	Mondo Magic	Fear Factor (Season VI)		Supernatural (Season 1)		Hex (Season 2)	
Cartoon Network	Pixie And Dixie	All New Popeye Show	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Codename: Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dice	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons	Teen Titans	Justice League	The Batman	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock
Cinema One		Cavalry Command				[illegible] Ka Lang Sa Lupa				[illegible] Kamao				Slaw				Birador	
Cinemax	Whatever Happened To Baby Jane?				Just Cause (4:40 PM)				Shadow Of A Doubt (6:20 PM)			Johnny Skidmarks			Hudson Hawk (9:35 PM)			Paris Trout (11:15PM)	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	CNN Business Traveller	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Psychic Detectives	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Cold Case				E-Ring	
Discovery Channel		Psychic Witness		Building The Biggest		Raw Nature		Deadliest Season In The World		We Built This City		IBM Innovation Hour		Mythbusters		Building The Biggest		Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/[illegible]	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Tutenstein	Lizzie McGuire	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN			Tour De France 2006	Table Tennis '04 International Champs				Table Tennis '04 International Champs	Motorsport Asia	Pool: Snooker Premier Snooker League 05		Germany Tonight		Sportscenter Asia	Pool: Snooker World Pool League 05 Poland		Pool: Snooker World Pool League 05 Poland		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		American Dreams 3		Change of Heart	Eliminidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Will & Grace 4	Friends 10	Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Showdog Moms & Dads		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Chaplet Of Divine Mercy	Chaplet Of Mercy/Angelus	Virtue Storybook	Truth in The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	The Sacraments Through The Ages	Special Programming		EWTN Live Encore With Fr. Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/Angelus	The Seven Sacraments	Images of Mary	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man (2:45 PM)	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Endless Love 1 [illegible] By Popular Demand		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Captain Barbell	Majika	I Luv NY		Love Of The Condor Heroes		Magpakailanman			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		Strong Medicine (3:15 PM)		Redwood Curtain				McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Dinotopia		Spooks		A Time To Remember			Spooks (11:45PM)
HBO	Beverly Hills Cop II			Poodle Springs (4:15 PM)				The Stepsister			Mad Dog And Glory			Constantine				Groundhog Day	
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Shadow Of The Bride	Mission Odyssey	Rune Soldier	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mama do Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Mission Odyssey
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Global Family Series		Japan Video Topics ATM		Tokyo Princess	Japan Video Topics ATM	Global Family Series	IBC News Tonight	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show With David Letterman		Smackdown				JLU	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Everybody Hates Chris	The Late Show With David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central Presents	South Park	The Man Show
Lifestyle Network	Get Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Food 911	Whose Wedding Is It Anyway?		Good Finds	Martha		Your Private Island	Genuine Article	E! True Hollywood Story	
MTV Philippines MYX		Punk'D Rock MYX	Laguna Beach My MYX	Mellow MYX	MTV Hits Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX News			Get Spotted OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		MYX Bandarito	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	National Geographic Special		Megastructures		Naked Science: Mystery Of Stonehenge		Top 5 - Is It Real?				About Asia		National Geographic Special				Naked Science: Angry Earth	
NBN		[illegible] Ala-Tele		[illegible]			[illegible] Ko, Mahal Ko Ba Siya	Teledyaryo [illegible] Angelique Lazo News Boat (Live)		WOW! [illegible] Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Pinoy OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles	Convergence	Auto Motor Sport	The Planet	Tomorrow Today	Ang Tamang Daan				Openline (Live)	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	INC Chronicles	INC Chronicles F	Ang Pagbubunyag		World Report	Kapatid Sa [illegible]	DWTV Journal News	Tomorrow Today
Nickelodeon	Challzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants [illegible]	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron My Life As A Teenage Robot	Nick Kicks! All Grown Up		The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Heartache City				Bayaw				Bad Boys Gang				Pitong Gamol				[illegible] Irene
Qtv	[illegible] Lang Ang [illegible]		Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene	Fireworks	Damo	Project 11	Family Zoo		News On Q	Women's Desk		Police Hour
RPN 9	TV Shopping				[illegible] Show	RPN [illegible] News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The 4400		Medium		Invasion		Newswatch Now	Just For Laughs	Kasangga Mo [illegible]	
SBN 21								[illegible] Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		[illegible]		Friends Again		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports				GWS 25-2006	Boxing Greatest Champs			Beach Volleyball				2006 JONES CUP				Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	2006 Thomas Cup [illegible]	
Sports Plus						World Poker Tour: Hollywood Home Game				Golf Today	Nopi Tunervision	World's Greatest Auto Shows		World Game		Auto Focus		French Open '06 [illegible] Highlights	
Star Movies				Uptown Girls			Imagining Argentina (5:45 PM)				Submerged			Confessions Of A Drama Queen			Absolute Zero		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Rockstar		The Office (US Version)	Arrested Development	The Drew Carey Show	Less Than Perfect	Seinfeld	Rockstar
Studio 23				PBL Game 2				[illegible]	Blog	Wazzup Wazzup	Two And A Half Men		Joey (8:20 PM)	Grey's Anatomy (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Reality World

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

What people don't know about the proposed Cha-Cha

The proposed Cha-Cha is being presented as empowerment of the people. Yet, if we examine three documents, namely the Draft Petition of the "people's" Initiative (DP), House Resolution 1230 (HR), and the report of the Consultative Commission on Charter Change (CC), the proposed charter changes will do the opposite: give more political power to the few who already have too much of it.

1. **It will take away our right to vote directly for the President/Head of State. Only members of Parliament will choose the Prime Minister**

   "The Prime Minister shall be elected by a majority vote of all the Members of Parliament from among themselves." (*DP-Art. 7, Sec 1; HR-Art. 7-A, Sec. 3; CC-Art. 8, Sec. 2*)

   "The President shall be elected from among the Members of the Parliament by a majority vote of all its Members for a term of five years..." (*HR-Art. 7, Sec. 2; CC-Art. 9, Sec. 2*)

2. **It will create a powerful Interim Parliament composed of incumbent politicians that would decide whether 2007 elections would be held or not.**

   Interim Parliament will be composed of incumbent senators, congressmen, and cabinet secretaries: "There shall exist, upon the ratification of these amendments, an interim Parliament which shall continue until the Members of the regular Parliament shall have been elected and shall have qualified. It shall be composed of the incumbent Members of the Senate and House of Representatives and the incumbent Members of the Cabinet who are heads of executive departments." (*DP-Art. 18, Sec. 4(1); HR-Art 18, Sec. 1; CC-Art. 20, Sec. 8 & 9*)

   Interim Parliament will be left alone to decide when the next elections are to be held including those for local positions: "The interim Parliament shall provide for the election of the members of the Parliament, which shall be synchronized and held simultaneously with the election of all local government officials." (*DP-Art. 18, Sec. 5(2)*)

3. **It will create a super-President with additional Prime Minister powers.** This is because the President will keep the powers specified by the 1987 Constitution, while enjoying the powers of Prime Minister- an arrangement vulnerable to abuse.

   Impeachment becomes more difficult, if not nearly impossible: "The incumbent President and Vice-President shall serve until the expiration of their term at noon on the thirtieth day of June 2010 and shall continue to exercise their powers under the 1987 Constitution unless impeached by a vote of two thirds of all the members of the interim parliament." (*DP-Art 18, Sec. 1(1)*)

   Interim Prime Minister will only perform functions delegated by the President. He or she will be chosen by the President: "The incumbent President, who is the Chief Executive, shall nominate, from among the members of the interim Parliament, an interim Prime Minister, who shall be elected by a majority vote of the members thereof. The interim Prime Minister shall oversee the various ministries and shall perform such powers and responsibilities as may be delegated to him by the incumbent President." (*DP-Art 18., Sec. 5(1); HR-Art. 18, Sec. 6; CC-Art. 20, Sec. 12 & 13*)

4. **Open the door for those in power to stay on in definitely.**

   There is no prohibition in any of the proposals against incumbents, including the President, from running in any parliamentary elections to be held in 2010. Moreover, there is no limit in the number of terms: "Each Member of Parliament ... shall be elected by the qualified voters of his district for a term of five years without limitation as to the number thereof..." (*DP-Art. 6, Sec. 1(2); HR-Art. 6, Sec. 1(2); CC-Art. 7, Sec. 4(1)*)

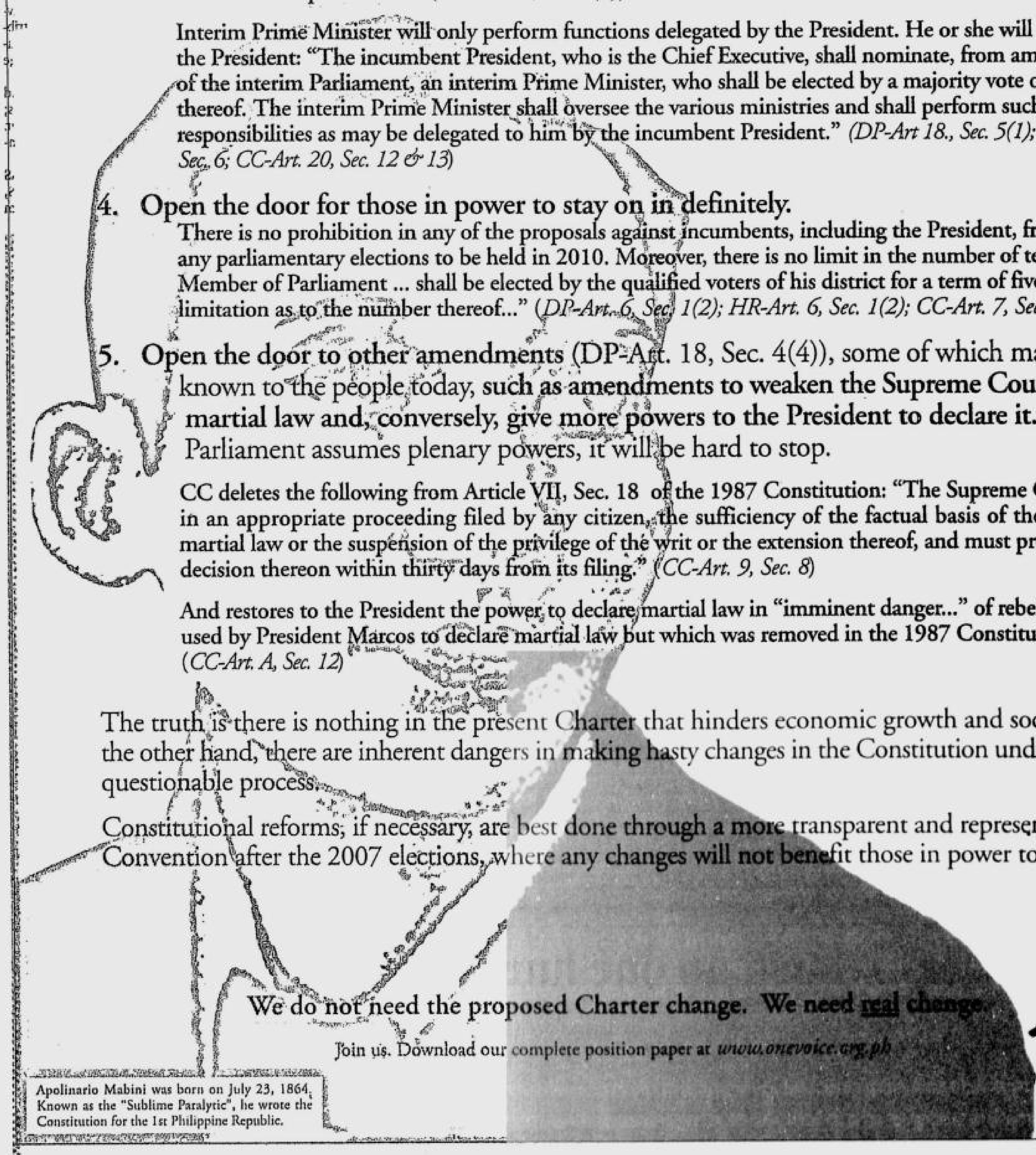
5. **Open the door to other amendments** (DP-Art. 18, Sec. 4(4)), some of which may not even be known to the people today, **such as amendments to weaken the Supreme Court as a check against martial law and, conversely, give more powers to the President to declare it.** Once the Interim Parliament assumes plenary powers, it will be hard to stop.

   CC deletes the following from Article VII, Sec. 18 of the 1987 Constitution: "The Supreme Court may review, in an appropriate proceeding filed by any citizen, the sufficiency of the factual basis of the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ or the extension thereof, and must promulgate its decision thereon within thirty days from its filing." (*CC-Art. 9, Sec. 8*)

   And restores to the President the power to declare martial law in "imminent danger..." of rebellion, which was used by President Marcos to declare martial law but which was removed in the 1987 Constitution. (*CC-Art. A, Sec. 12*)

The truth is there is nothing in the present Charter that hinders economic growth and social development. On the other hand, there are inherent dangers in making hasty changes in the Constitution under a flawed and legally questionable process.

Constitutional reforms, if necessary, are best done through a more transparent and representative Constitutional Convention after the 2007 elections, where any changes will not benefit those in power today.



Apolinario Mabini was born on July 23, 1864. Known as the "Sublime Paralytic", he wrote the Constitution for the 1st Philippine Republic.

We do not need the proposed Charter change. We need real change.

Join us. Download our complete position paper at *www.onevoice.org.ph*

One Voice
Speak up
for real change.

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All Biak-na-Bato quarrying stopped

By Christine Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND Natural Resources has suspended all quarrying and other mining-related operations in the Biak-na-Bato National Park in San Miguel, Bulacan.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday announced in a press conference that the agency is suspending the operations of Rosemoor Mining and Development Corp., that holds a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) in the premises of the Biak-na-Bato Mineral Reservation.

"The DENR has decided to suspend the mining/quarrying operations of Rosemoor until such time that the environment, social, safety and health measures are put in place, operating agreements are registered and approved and all proper taxes, fees and royalties are fully paid," said Reyes.

He said that the agency is also canceling all quarrying permits issued by the provincial and municipal governments covering areas in the national park, the mineral reservation, forest reservation and watershed area.

He said Rosemoor has violated the several conditions of its MPSA specifically on partially paying excise taxes.

The company, he said, still has to pay P167,308 to the government from Nov. 17, 2005 to Jan. 23, 2006.

"Moreover, the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP)'s requirements have not been fully complied with," he added.

Rosemoor had said it did not violate any conditions in its mining permits and has been paying taxes regularly.

Reyes said the DENR is currently investigating the alleged double-marking of marble blocks.

The said mineral reservation has a unique and internationally known marble deposit referred as tea rose.

Rosemoor's MPSA, issued by the DENR in December 2002, covers 330.3 hectares within the eastern portion of the national park.

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

DENR chief Reyes gestures at a meeting to discuss another environmental concern, the mining operations at Rapu-Rapu, Albay.

MILF, gov't militias sign truce pact

COTABATO CITY—GOVERNMENT militias loyal to Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrillas signed a truce agreement on Tuesday, raising hopes for an end to clashes between the two groups that drove thousands of residents from their homes.

The governor, Brig. Gen. Ramon Santos, and MILF leader Von Al-Haq signed the pact that would be in effect for two weeks.

"What is important is we separated the warring groups and normalcy has returned," said Santos, who heads the government panel in a team that monitors a ceasefire agreement with the MILF.

The truce agreement calls for military presence in several areas in Shariff Aguak town that had been battlefields between the militias and guerrillas.

Teams composed of MILF leaders and military officials are to be deployed to monitor the truce.

It allows MILF members who live in the area to keep their firearms but not openly display them.

Demilitarized zones were earlier delineated to keep apart the guerrillas and militiamen.

The clashes, that sent at least 20,000 people fleeing, were believed triggered by a car bomb attack on June 23 against the governor that left seven people dead.

Militiamen were running after two MILF leaders believed behind the attack.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the agreement was a breakthrough.

"The civilians ... can now return home ...," said Kabalu.

But the evacuees have refused to return home.

"Where are we going to stay, our houses were burned," said Bai Intan Bagid, a resident of Barangay Iagangampong. "We lost our homes, our farm products and our work animals." *Jeoffrey Maitem and Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

SOME of the evacuees that used to call Shariff Aguak town their home.

FROM OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

More cops to be sent to agrarian hot spots

By Blanche S. Rivera

MALACAÑANG HAS ORDERED more policemen sent to problematic agrarian reform areas as part of the government's efforts to quash the insurgency in the countryside and facilitate land distribution.

The government would start putting up police detachments in five haciendas in Negros Occidental this week also to prevent the killings of farmer leaders, Presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor said.

The Department of Agrarian Reform, along with farmers' organizations, is also assessing the situation in Bicol, Bondoc Peninsula and Davao to see which areas need reinforcement from the Philippine National Police.

"I know that the source of the problem of rebellion is land. Most of them (insurgents) are farmers. We don't want to give the farmers a reason or opportunity to take up arms and fight the government," Defensor said in a press conference at the DAR yesterday.

Defensor and officials of the DAR, PNP, and departments of Justice and National Defense met with leaders of the Task Force Mapalad in Malacañang Monday to craft a strategy to address the killings in Negros, home of the biggest sugar estates in the country.

Three TFM leaders in the province have been killed this year, with one being gunned down every month since April. At least six peasant leaders from TFM and Unorka have been killed since 2001.

"If the government had been decisive in implementing the CARP, we would not have had these problems. Farmers have paid with their lives. The government should do its part," TFM spokesperson Edna Sobrecaray said.

Malacañang has ordered police detachments set up in haciendas Mulawin and Hulbo in Sagay City, Velez-Malaga and Cambuktot in La Castellana City, and Dorotea in Silay City.

The DAR would also install 93 farmer beneficiaries in 10 hectares of Hacienda Mulawin tomorrow with the aid of the provincial PNP.

Agrarian Reform Undersecretary Jeffrey Galan urged other farmers' groups to submit a list of problematic areas to the local DAR offices so the DAR could coordinate with the PNP in boosting police personnel.

"We will do this not just in Negros but in all areas since it's now a policy of Malacañang," Galan said, referring to the installation of police detachments in agrarian hot spots.

Some farmer beneficiaries in Negros have had their certificates of land ownership award for 10 years but still could not occupy the land due to the landowners' private armies.

₱6.2M spent to buy cell phones for solon

By Gerome M. Dalipe IV
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) spent P6.2 million in February 2005 to purchase 1,582 units of Nokia 1100 cellular phones for "the use of Rep. Judy Jalbuena Syjuco," documents obtained by Iloilo provincial administrator Manuel Mejorada showed.

However, the whole transaction was questioned after the supposed recipient of the cellular phone discovered that his signature in the Invoice Receipt for Property had been forged, and the phones never reached him.

Mejorada said he suspected "ghost delivery" for the cellular phones, as there was no trace of them at all after a soft drinks distributor supposedly cornered the "juicy transaction" allegedly upon the instance of Syjuco, the representative of the second district of Iloilo.

"Where did the cellular phones go?" Mejorada asked after Mayor Isabelo Maquino of Sta. Barbara, Iloilo denied that the signature on the property receipt form for the 1,582 cell phone units was his.

Maquino's supposed signature was the basis for the payment for the mobile phones, Mejorada said.

Syjuco, speaking through her lawyer, yesterday denied any irregular transactions in the purchase of the cellular phones.

Alex Espino, lawyer and liaison officer of Syjuco, described Mejorada's exposé as a "political capital" after Mejorada recently announced his intention to run against Syjuco in the second district of Iloilo.

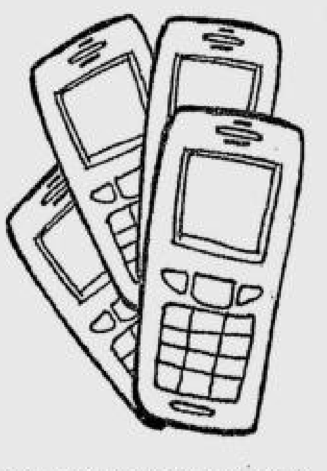
Espino challenged Mejorada to prove his allegations on the alleged illegal cell phones transaction.

He added they would also help Maquino to investigate who forged his signature.

Mejorada said it was "highly possible" that there was no physical delivery of the cellular phones and the transaction became a "C-to-C," short-cut for "convert to cash."

He said he found it hard to believe that a little known beverage distributor in Jordan, Guimaras could easily corner a big contract on the pretext of being an exclusive dealer of Smart phone products.

"How could a small business in soft drinks distribution just brush aside the more well-known and established dealers?" Mejorada asked.



Mejorada said the dealer of the mobile phones, West Island Beverage Distributor (WIBD), was believed to be an entrepreneur who had business dealings with the Syjuco couple when they still operated Jaz Cola in the 1990s.

"Jaz Cola seems to be the common bond that linked them," said Mejorada.

He pointed to "tell-tale marks" in the documents submitted by WIBD that indicated its official receipts and charge invoice forms were printed only with this transaction in mind.

For instance, Mejorada found that the OR and charge invoices were printed only on Dec. 20, 2004, or less than a week before the award of the contract by DOTC to WIBD.

Among the documents he obtained from the Commission on Audit (COA) was a letter dated Dec. 15, 2004 and signed by Syjuco.

In this letter, Syjuco asked the DOTC to forgo with the usual bidding process and resort to a direct purchase only with an exclusive dealer of mobile phone products.

Interestingly, the certification submitted by WIBD issued by Evan Fullon, agent coordinator of Smart Philippines, was dated Jan. 4, 2005. The transaction in which this document was supposed to be already in the files took place on Dec. 28, 2004.

Mejorada was particularly "shocked" that whoever was behind the transaction "could be so brazen and bold to forge the signature of Maquino."

"It's not just a crime against a person that was committed here," he said. "It was also an act of grave disrespect for that person."

Fire hits posh Boracay resort; no one hurt

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—FIRE STRUCK A posh resort on Boracay Island Tuesday night.

No casualty was reported in the fire that struck the administrative building of Club Panoly, said Insp. Kim Celisio, Bureau of Fire Protection chief in Boracay.

Celisio said the staff of the resort reported the fire at about 7:15 p.m. It started at the two-story administrative building of the resort in Sitio Punta Banga in Barangay Yapak at the northern end of the 4-kilometer beach.

Firefighters put the fire out at 8:45 p.m., said Celisio in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

The fire damaged more than half of the administrative building, including the receiving area and the cashier's and accounting office. None of the rooms for guests and other hotel facilities were affected.

Fire investigators believed that the fire started from the resort's neon lights billboard at the second floor of the burned building.

Celisio said witnesses reported that they saw the billboard burst into flames. He said strong winds and heavy rains might have caused an electrical short circuit that ignited the billboard.

The Boracay BFP is still conducting further investigation on the cause of the fire and the cost of damage.

ROUNDUP

Village chief shot dead

LUCENA CITY—At least two unidentified gunmen shot dead Nestor de Villa, 37, the village chief of Polo in Mulanay town in Quezon province Sunday morning, police said. Investigators said the victim was walking in Ajos in the nearby town of Catanauan when the suspects aboard a motorcycle appeared from behind and shot the village official several times. The victim was rushed to the nearest hospital but was declared dead on arrival from several fatal gunshot wounds. According to Supt. Renato Alba, Catanauan police chief, a "love triangle" could have been the motive in the shooting.

Dellin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Employee freed

COTABATO CITY—An employee of a World Bank-funded project was freed Monday night, 12 hours after he was abducted by armed men in Lanao del Norte. Brig. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, Army's Southern Command deputy chief, said Henry de Guzman, coordinator for Kalahi-CIDDS in Lanao del Norte, was released by his captors through the help of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front Ad Hoc Joint Action Group, a team composed of forces from the government and MILF that helps run after lawless elements in Mindanao. Unidentified armed men abducted De Guzman in Barangay Tambo, Munai, Lanao del Norte Monday morning and brought him to the nearby village of Panggao.

Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Silver anniversary

SAN PABLO CITY—The St. Peter's College Seminary in this city will celebrate its silver anniversary on July 31 with the participation of both ordained alumni priests and unordained laity alumni. Msgr. Alex Amante, vicar general and chair of the anniversary committee, said in his invitation letter that the activities will be highlighted by Eucharistic celebration to be presided over by Most Rev. Leo Drona; Msgr. Elias Poblete, retired and the longest reigning rector of the seminary; and Manila Auxiliary Bishop Most Rev. Bernardino Cortez, a former priest of the diocese.

Power hike in Batangas

LIPA CITY—Power rates went up from P8.40 per kilowatt-hour (kwh) to P9.38 kwh in June for Batangas residents after the Batangas Electric Cooperative II imposed additional charges last June to shoulder Transco's increased transmission delivery charge and Batelec's operation costs. Zaida Masangkay, head of member consumer services and public relations department of Batelec, said an additional P5 expanded value-added tax was also imposed on the consumers.

Marlon Alexander Luistro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Silent Bulusan still casts fear on villages

By Bobby Q. Labalan
Casiguran, Sorsogon

MOUNT BULUSAN has been silent for the past 20 days or so, but residents of Barangay Inlagadian in Casiguran, Sorsogon continue to fear that the volcano will explode any time.

Barangay chair Tito Estonanto said most of his constituents were still anxious, especially those living within the 4-km danger zone, which the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) has recommended to be relocated.

Dominga Espinol, a mother of seven, said she had never felt relaxed even though they had already returned to their home when Bulusan's eruptions stopped.

"Even in our sleep, we stay alert so that we can react immediately if the volcano erupts again. After what we have experienced, we are afraid," she said.

Her family tends a small vegetable farm, which has been destroyed by ash spewed by the volcano.

PUPILS of the Inlagadian Elementary School, which was closed because it is located within Mount Bulusan's permanent danger zone, get shuttle service from a dump truck provided by the Casiguran municipal government, in going to the Escuala Elementary School. NIÑO JESUS Y. ORBETA

Government help

Now, her husband works as a farm hand in a small coconut land being managed by their neighbor and is paid P500 per week at most. Dominga said she sometimes sought help from her parents to feed their children.

"We just hope that the government will help us, especially in relocating us," she said.

Rose Ajas said her husband had stopped tending a vegetable farm at the slope of Bulusan since they felt tremors every now and then.

Their farm, which is just 3 km from the volcano, is now gone.

According to Mayor Edwin Hamor, the municipal council has drawn up a relocation plan for the 76 families living within the danger zone,

Hamor said the village's elementary school has to be relocated, too, adding that the Department of Education had already agreed to the plan.

The municipal government plans to buy a 4-hectare piece of property as a relocation site for the affected families and as a school site. It has already identified the area outside the danger zone but near enough for the affected families to go to their farms, he said.

The local government could shoulder the cost of the lot but they need help for the housing and school building which would entail a considerable amount of money, Hamor said.

Around P4 million is needed to construct the school building, while the housing project costs P3.1 million, computed at P40,000 per unit.

The plan is to be submitted to the Office of Civil Defense once documentation is completed.

Casiguran drew P135,000 from its calamity fund during the recent eruptions.

Dominga's and Rose's stories are true to other residents of Barangay Inlagadian, as well as those of Añog and Puting-Sapa in the town of Juban.

Añog councilman Dalmacio Orejo said most of the residents in the village were now suffering the economic effects of the volcano's explosions. A majority of them rely on vegetable farming for livelihood, but their crops have been wiped out by the ash explosions.

"We appeal to our government officials to look into our situation and extend us help, especially now that our constituents are no longer staying at the evacuation centers," Orejo said.

The Juban municipal government had put on hold its own relocation plan as the danger of the volcano had considerably waned, according to Mayor Tess Guab-Fragata.

She said possible relocation sites had already been identified, but the plan was temporarily shelved pending an advisory from Phivolcs about the status of the volcano.

The municipal government will supply the farmers with different varieties of vegetable seeds so they can start planting again, she said.

Añog and Puting-Sapa are outside the 4-km danger zone, but they were heavily affected during the ash explosions.

Slain environmentalist now part of Laguna lake

By Marlon Ramos
Calamba City

LONG BEFORE HE DIED IN THE HANDS OF unidentified gunmen on May 27, environment activist and Bayan Muna coordinator Noel "Noli" Capulong had wanted his remains to be part of the fabled Laguna lake.

"It was like a death wish. He said he wanted to be part of the lake waters," related his widow Doyette.

"Like the unruffled waters of the Laguna lake, Noli was a calm person. He also used to tell me that like the water in the lake, he was at peace in the hands of the Lord. And I know that he is now," she said.

At dawn on July 5, about 200 relatives and friends joined Doyette as they scattered the ashes of her husband over the lake. It was the 40th day after Capulong was gunned down by alleged military agents on board a motorcycle in Barangay Parian in Calamba City.

For many of his comrades and loved ones, it was easy to discern why Capulong had such wish.

People's drugstore

"As an environment activist, he spent a considerable time organizing small fisherfolk to fight for their rights against owners of commercial fish cages in the lake. He also stood for the protection of the Laguna lake," said Arman Albarillo, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Southern Tagalog (Bayan-ST).

The mourners later went to Barangay Lingga to inaugurate the Botikang Bayan (People's Pharmacy) project of the Bayan Muna party-list group in Calamba.

Albarillo said Capulong had worked hard for almost a year to make sure that the project would be realized. "He knew this project would benefit thousands of poor families at the lakeshore communities of Lingga, Palingon and Sampiruhan," he said.

The inauguration was originally set three days after his death.

"I feel both happy and sad," Doyette said during the program. "Despite our grief, our family is happy that Noli's work for this project was not wasted. I know this would help a lot of people."

The P400,000 used for the 20-sq m drug store came from the Countrywide Development Fund of Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo.

Calamba Mayor Joaquin Chipeco donated P10,000 worth of medicines.

Volunteer pharmacists

The store is open 24 hours and will be manned by four volunteer pharmacists who will receive honorariums for their job, Albarillo said.

He said the profits would be used to acquire more medicines and other items needed.

During the program, Capulong's older brother, retired Army Brig. Gen. Homer Capulong, a veteran in the military's anti-insurgency war, said that instead of justifying an all-out war, President Macapagal-Arroyo should try to win over the rebels and her critics.

Another older brother, lawyer Emil Capulong, said their family would not stop until justice was served.

City police chief Supt. Roland Bustos admitted that police were having a hard time solving the case. The only evidence they had were the bullets from the crime scene and a lone witness who saw the assailants, he said.

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'Florita' spawns heavy rains; 4 killed

2 kids missing in Baguio; no classes today in Metro, 5 other regions

AT LEAST FOUR PERSONS WERE KILLED AND two children were missing as strong winds and monsoon rain, enhanced by outgoing tropical storm "Florita," swept northern Luzon since Tuesday night.

Floods stranded hundreds of commuters in Metro Manila, prompting the suspension of classes in all levels yesterday morning. Malacañang sent home government employees, including those in five other regions, after lunch due to the bad weather.

Malacañang announced late last night that there will be no classes today in all levels in regions 1, 2, 3, 4, the Cordilleras and Metro Manila. However, there will be work in government offices.

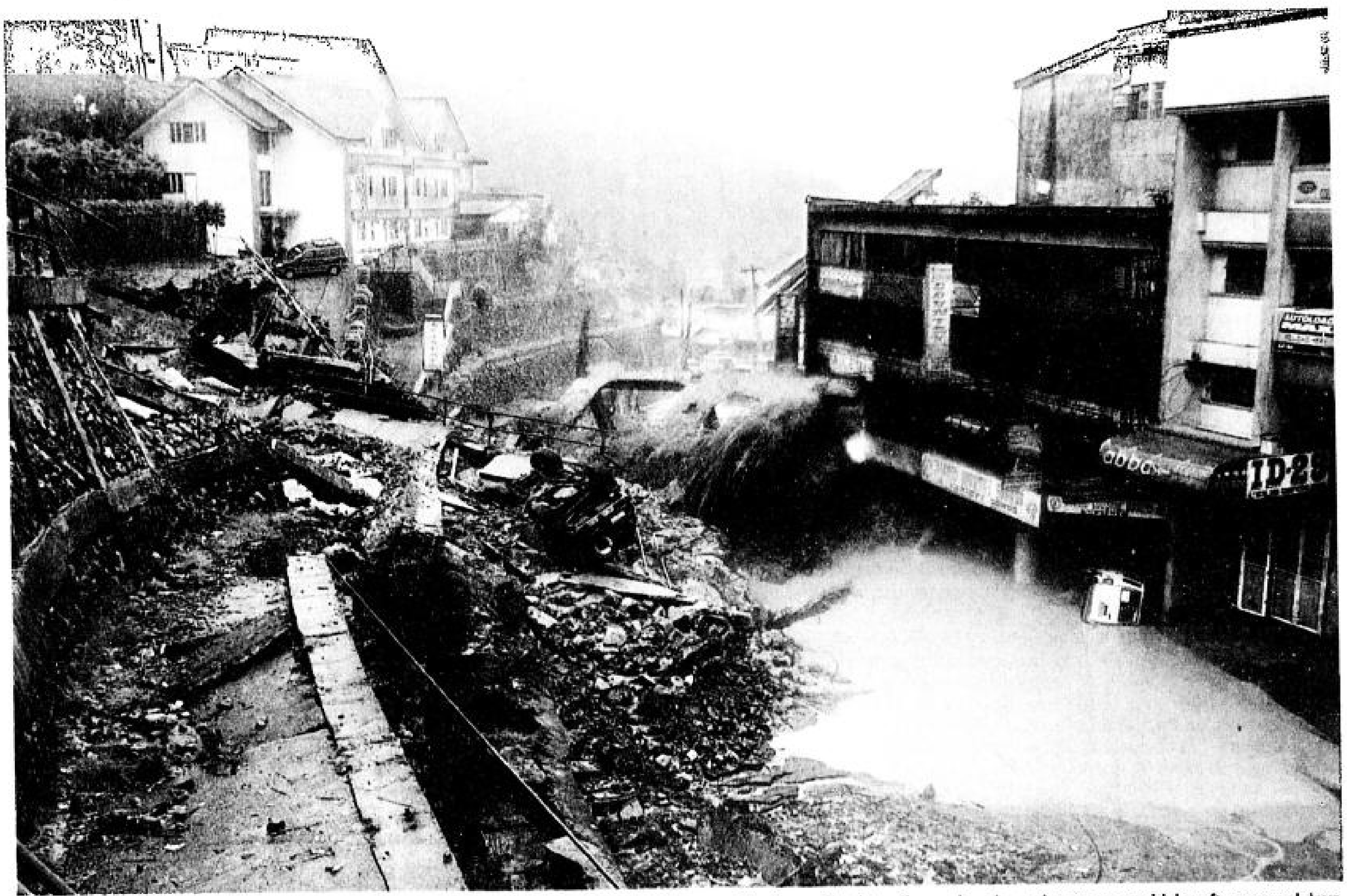
In Quezon City, lightning struck a power line of the Light Rail Transit-2 between the Santolan and Katipunan stations at 7:30 a.m. yesterday. Train services were halted for several hours.

A huge retaining wall collapsed in Baguio City, sending part of a street crashing onto the middle of a major thoroughfare leading to La Trinidad town in Benguet on Tuesday night. No one was reported hurt but at least five vehicles were buried in the biggest among the seven landslides reported in the city.

Florita (international code-name: Bilis) intensified into a typhoon as of 5 p.m. yesterday as it continued to move toward Taiwan, packing winds of up to 130 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 150 kph. It was spotted at 330 km east-northeast of Basco, Batanes.

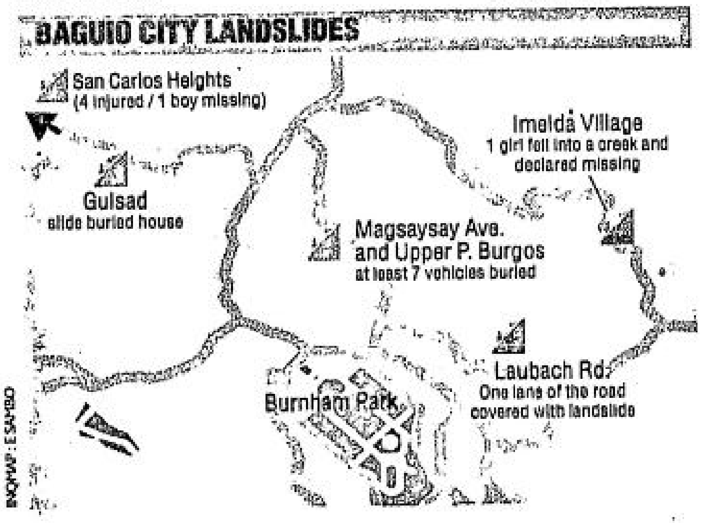
Pagasa raised Signal No. 3 in the Batanes and Calayan island groups, Signal No. 2 in Cagayan, Apayao, Ilocos Norte, and Signal No. 1 in Isabela, Ifugao, Mt. Province, Kalinga, Abra, Ilocos Sur, Benguet and La Union.

It warned against flash floods and landslides, and advised against interisland travel as heavy monsoon rains battered Luzon and Western Visayas and were expected to continue until Saturday morning.



LANDSLIDE: A portion of the retaining wall along Magsaysay Avenue in the Baguio central business district collapses burying at least seven vehicles after several days of heavy rains.

TOOTS SOBERANO


BAGUIO CITY LANDSLIDES
San Carlos Heights
(4 injured / 1 boy missing)
Gulsad
slide buried house
Imelda Village
1 girl fell into a creek and declared missing
Magsaysay Ave. and Upper P. Burgos
at least 7 vehicles buried
Laubach Rd.
One lane of the road covered with landslide
Burnham Park
INQMAP: E SAMBO

In Olongapo City in Zambales, a woman and her three sons were killed when a tree toppled by a strong wind fell on their house at about 8:45 p.m. on Tuesday.

Police said Tessie Villegas, 43 and her sons Gilbert, 4, and twins Jobert and Jeric, 2, were sleeping in their house when the tree pinned them.

Villegas' partner, Sonny Solano, 47, and another child, Angelica Villegas, 6, were hurt and taken to the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital.

Reports from the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the City Disaster Coordinating Council (CDCC) in Baguio said at least two children were missing and four others were hurt.

But Mayor Braulio Yaranon, in a television interview yesterday, said two people were killed in the city following continuous rains that triggered the slides.

Osios Balbawang Jr., 4, was reported missing after their house in San Carlos Heights was buried by a landslide at 10 p.m. Tuesday. His parents and two siblings were hurt and taken to the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.

Gracel Benito, 7, fell into a creek in Imelda Village and was swept by a strong current at 12:30 p.m., the reports said.

Buencamino Atienza, a CDCC volunteer, said the other landslides in the villages were considered "minor." Among the areas where landslides were reported were Laubach Road, Guisad Surong and San Carlos Heights.

Marcos Highway, a major route to and from the city, remained open to traffic while a lane in a section of Naguilian Road, near the public cemetery, was closed to traffic. Atienza advised motorists not to take Kennon Road.

Hundreds of commuters in Manila were stranded in the flood-prone areas of Sampaloc, Tondo, Pandacan, San Andres and Singalong. Mayor Lito Atienza suspended classes in all levels when traffic was got worse and rains continued.

In critical areas in Malabon City, flooding was aggravated by high tide. River walls and at least three dikes collapsed and submerged Barangays Tanyong, Niugan and Dampalit, and made major roads impassable, the city engineer said.

Reports from Blanche S. Rivera, Christine O. Avendaño, Tarra V. Quismundo, Alcuin Papa, Tina G. Santos, DJ Yap, Nancy Carvajal and Riza T. Olchondra in Manila; Frank Cimatu, Gobleth Moulic, Peter La. Julian, Leoncio Balbin Jr., Estanislao Caldez, Cristina Arzadon and Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas, Allan Macatuno, Ansbert Joaquin, Cesar Villa, Anselmo Roque and Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk

'Unstatesmanlike statement from a statesman'

A LAW DEAN HAS ACCUSED FORMER Senate President Jovito Salonga of making an "unstatesmanlike" statement when he and other opposition leaders commented that the refusal of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) to support the second impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo will push the people to another People Power revolt.

"The impeachment process is still the only constitutional mode of arriving at the truth and putting a closure to all the charges being raised by the opposition against the Arroyo administration," said Dean Amado Valdez of the University of the East (UE) College of Law.

Valdez, in a press statement, pointed out that while the CBCP had rejected supporting the second impeachment complaint, it stopped short of pushing for an alternative because of its avowed adherence to legal and peaceful means of searching for the truth.

"It was an unstatesman-like statement from a statesman," Valdez said.

The workers group Kilusang Mayo Uno yesterday said it was optimistic that the bishops would "eventually see the light" and change their mind.

KMU secretary general Joel Maglunsod said while the group respected CBCP's judgment on the impeachment process and other issues, "we also expect our Church leaders to respect the people's will on matters concerning Arroyo leadership."

In Dagupan City, Arroyo arch-critic Archbishop Oscar Cruz said Malacañang must not be lured into believing that it has the CBCP on its side.

"It you will read the CBCP's stand deeper, it said the reason it decided against impeachment at this time was because of the experience last year that the cases were merely thrown out and denied simply on the account of numbers of congressmen who were allies of President Arroyo," The Lingayen-Dagupan archbishop told reporters.

With Jerome Aning and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Ex-journalist denies link to Feb. 24 coup

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE FORMER JOURNALIST ACCUSED OF acting as a bridge between former Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim yesterday denied involvement in the failed Feb. 24 coup plot.

Cecilio Arillo, who was earlier subpoenaed by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in relation to its continuing probe on the plot, arrived at the bureau around 11 a.m. and unhesitatingly talked to reporters present.

Arillo said he only talked to Orbos, Lim and Sen. Panfilo Lacson as sources for a new book he is currently writing.

"I admit having interviewed them for my book when I heard about rumors regarding the establishment of a transition council," Arillo said.

Arillo said that Orbos and Lacson told him that they did not believe in transition governments.

The former journalist also denied that he offered cabinet positions in the said council.

Arillo stressed, "It does not make sense (because) I do not have the stature or the authority to do that."

Erap has a new neighbor in Tanay

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THERE WILL BE NO "MEET THE NEIGHbor" visits between these two prominent anti-Arroyo figures.

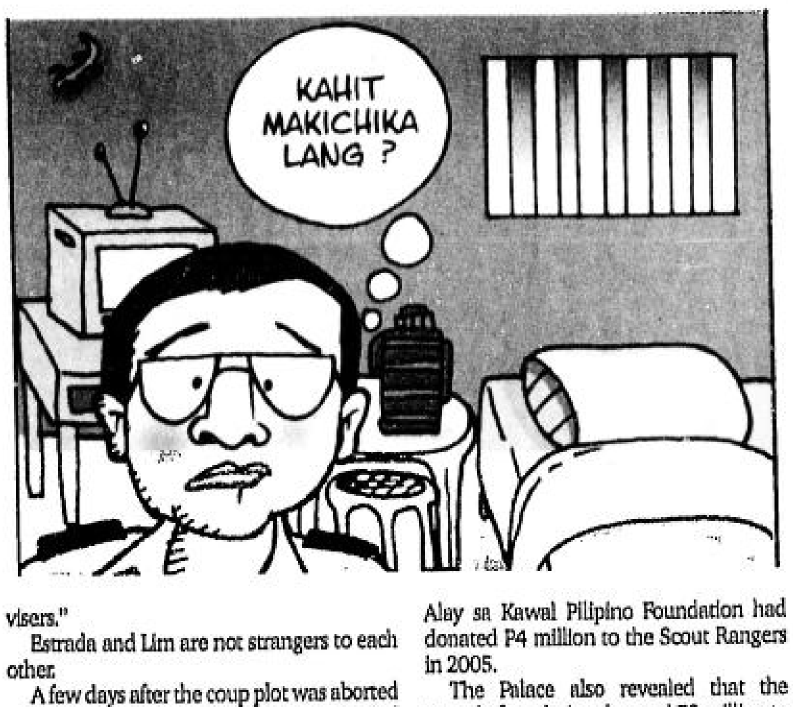
Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, who was sacked as chief of the elite Scout Rangers for his alleged involvement in the failed coup plot last February, cannot receive just anyone wishing to visit him at the Army's 2nd Infantry Division headquarters in Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal.

Lim is being detained in the facility, extensively renovated recently to beef up its maximum-security features, that used to hold ousted President Estrada before the latter was allowed in 2004 to enjoy an unprecedented "house arrest" in his lavish rest house across the Army camp while being tried for plunder.

"They're a stone's throw away from each other," remarked one officer.

Lim, who had been restricted to quarters in Fort Bonifacio since Feb. 24, was suddenly transferred to the Tanay facility after attending a hearing at the National Bureau of Investigation on Monday night.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro stressed that the only ones to be allowed to visit Lim were his "immediate family, lawyers, doctors and religious advisers."


KAHIT MAKICHIKA LANG ?

Estrada and Lim are not strangers to each other.

A few days after the coup plot was aborted on Feb. 24—during which Lim was supposed to lead the military in a mass withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo—Malacañang revealed that Estrada's Alay sa Kawal Pilipino Foundation had donated P4 million to the Scout Rangers in 2005.

The Palace also revealed that the Estrada foundation donated P3 million to the Marine Corps, which was also implicated in the Feb. 24 plot, and P1 million to the families of the Magdalo soldiers.

GMA efforts paying off, says Ermita

By Gil Cabacungan

SLOWLY BUT SURELY, PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo's efforts to show that she is in control and that she cares about the plight of masses are finally paying off, based on the improvement, in her public satisfaction ratings.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the public has finally come to realize that the President has kept her focus on running the country and kept the economy on a steady upward course despite the continuing efforts by her detractors.

"They have thrown a lot of things against her—the impeachment, the 'Hello Garci' tape, and military adventurists—and yet the respondents felt that the President has remained an effective leader which merits a positive reaction," said Ermita.

Public satisfaction with President Arroyo's performance improved slightly in the last quarter except in Metro Manila where it hit a new record low. Results of the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey conducted from June 22 to 28 gave a net satisfaction rating of minus 13 to the President. Although still in negative territory over the last eight quarters, the President's rating has improved from minus 30 in December 2005 and minus 25 in March 2006.

Ermita cited the various social service programs from housing to food to education that the President did in the first few months of the year helped boost an image of a caring President. He noted that the country has remained stable despite the destabilization attempts showed her leadership skills in a crisis situation.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that "whatever the polls say, they will always be a signal for the administration to work harder to advance the welfare of the people to a higher level."

Aplus METRO
Editor **Ester G. Dipasupil**
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Security tightened at MRT, LRT

Elite force deployed to protect commuters

By Tarra V. Quismundo

HOURS AFTER SEVEN BOMBS went off in a busy railway system in India, killing over 150 people, the National Capital Region Police Office yesterday stepped up security measures in Metro Manila's mass transport systems.

"We increased the number of policemen in our railway systems, including all stations, loading and unloading areas. We tightened security measures like the checking of bags and frisking of commuters," NCRPO chief, Director Vidal Querol, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Querol said some 200 members of the NCRPO Regional Special Action Unit, the police district's elite fighting force, would be fielded to the different stations of the Metro Rail Transit system and the Light Rail Transit Lines 1 and 2.

At the same time, Querol called on the public to help authorities spot suspicious-looking persons or packages.

"We ask the cooperation of commuters, not only by subjecting themselves to inspection, but by also helping police and security personnel to monitor the surroundings. They should report any suspicious persons or any bags left unattended," he said.

In 2000, a series of bombings occurred in the metropolis, leaving more than 20 people dead and over a hundred others injured. One of the sites of the bombings was the Blumentritt station of the LRT Line 1 which runs from Monumento to Baclaran.

ABOUT 200 policemen will be closely watching the Metro Rail Transit and Light Rail Transit Lines 1 and 2 to thwart possible bomb attacks.
ERIK ARAZAS

Pay up, drivers warned

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday announced that it would deploy an "elite group" of traffic enforcers along Edsa to go after hundreds of "dangerous" public utility buses (PUBs) and their drivers.

Some 20 members of Task Force Hunter, from the MMDA's Traffic Enforcement Group (TEG), will start hunting down beginning this month PUBs and drivers with unsettled traffic violations that date back to January.

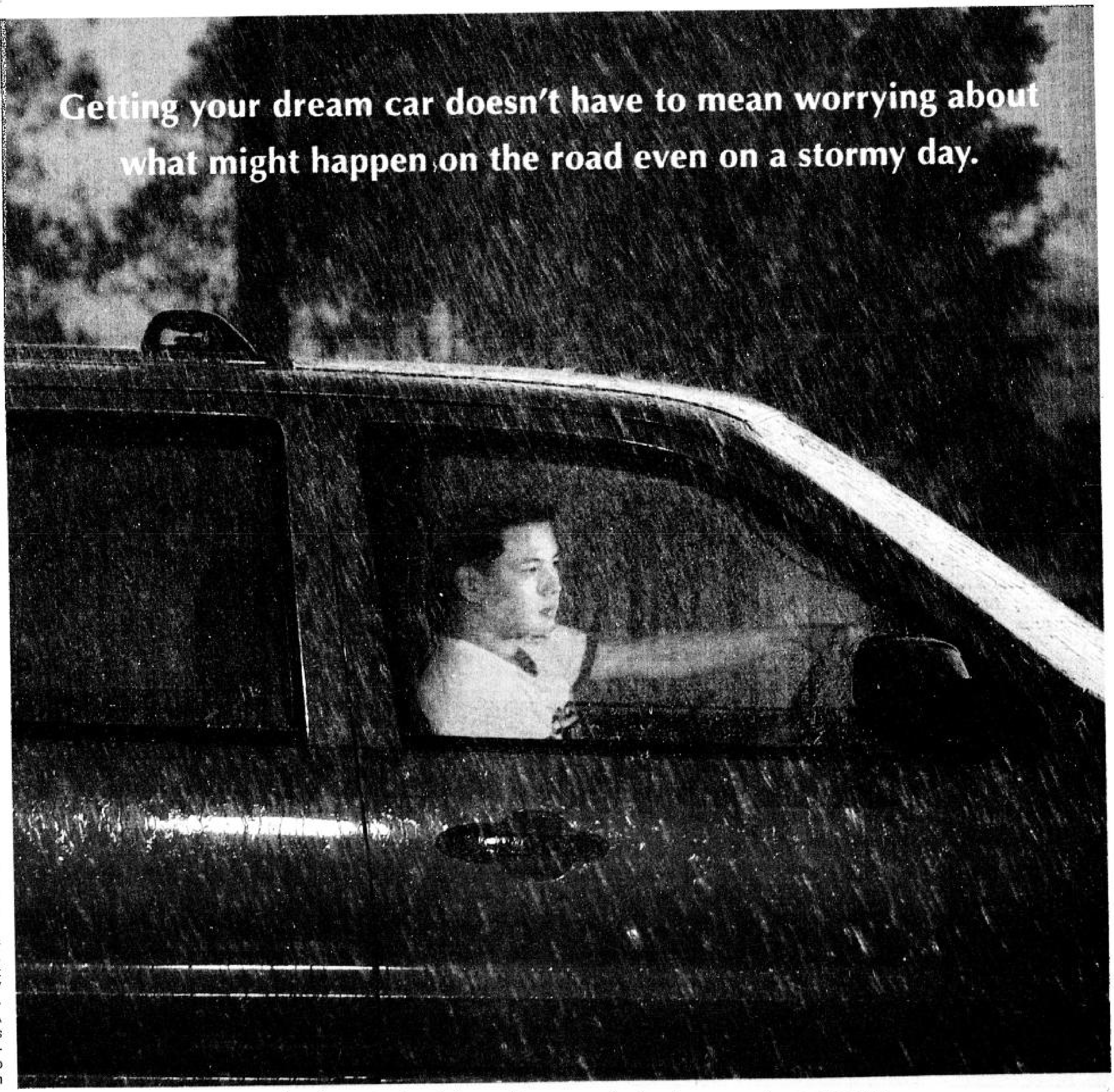
"No one is above the law. We will throw the book at these dangerous PUV (public utility vehicle) drivers," MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said in a statement.

On the watch list of Task Force Hunter are 354 buses that continue to ply roads in the metropolis despite outstanding traffic violations. Also being sought are 520 bus drivers who remain on the road although their licenses had been suspended for driving infractions.

The crackdown is aimed at forcing bus companies to pay their traffic violations dues. The MMDA has been waging a drive against buses that operate illegally on Edsa.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **DPS official** killed by 3 men in Makati City /A18
- **Police colonel** loses P150,000 to car thieves /A18
- **Solon asks Congress** to probe PNU president controversy /A18
- **POEA, NBI** sign pact strengthening drive vs illegal recruiters /A18


Getting your dream car doesn't have to mean worrying about what might happen on the road even on a stormy day.

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FREE Emergency Car Care Package for worry-free driving!

Buying your own car is exciting, until you consider the problems that might occur while driving it - like during bad weather or long trips. Only BPI Family Savings Bank gives you peace of mind by giving an unmatched package of free services from Ibero Asistencia, like towing, on-site car repair, hotel stay, and even alternative means of transport. That's why only the leader in auto loans can help you lead the life you've always wanted, without worries.

To get your dream loan today, visit any **BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center** near you.
For more information, call the Auto Loan Direct Marketing hotline at 845-6777 during office hours or 89-100 (24/7), or text: AUTO<space>your full name<space>your landline number<space>city or province (Example: AUTO Manny Gomez 8456777 Makati City) and send it to 091789100-00. or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com

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SOLITARY WATCH
A teenager sits on the deserted Baywalk strip on Roxas Boulevard, with only huge waves to keep him company. Classes were suspended in the metropolis yesterday due to heavy rains and strong winds. REM ZAMORA

Congress probe on PNU sought

By Tina G. Santos

REP. TEDDY Casiño ERIK ARAZAS

REP. ETTA Rosales PDI PHOTO

A PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE has asked Congress to investigate the appointment of lawyer Lutgardo Barbo as president of the state-run Philippine Normal University (PNU).

Rep. Teodoro Casiño also urged Congress, through the House committee on higher and technical education, to look into the subsequent resignation of PNU administrative officials against Barbo's appointment.

"There is a need for Congress to immediately address the PNU controversy and also take steps toward repealing or amending the erroneous Higher Education Modernization Act (Republic Act 8292) in order to undertake relevant reforms for the betterment of the Philippine education system," the solon said.

He added that the PNU controversy "seems to provide a clear example of how political patronage is winning over integrity and scholarship in the academe."

"And remedies are not forthcoming from the government to tackle this problem," Casiño said.

The militant congressman likewise cited the various issues raised by those opposed to the PNU Board of Regents' (BOR) decision to appoint Barbo, including perceived loopholes in RA 8292—the law governing state universities and colleges—particularly the composition of the governing boards which he claimed is being used by politicians to turn the academe into a huge playing field for patronage politics.

Another party-list representative, Loretta Rosales, is also reportedly planning to file a separate resolution calling for an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into Barbo's appointment.

In her resolution, Rosales said there was an urgent need to review the criteria and process used by the BOR's search committee in the selection of the president to ensure that the decision would be fair, objective and in the best interest of the university.

Makati City DPS investigator gunned down

By Tarra V. Quismundo

HOLDING P7.50 IN LOOSE change, public safety officer Felicisimo Enriquez was about to take a jeepney to work at a few minutes past 7 a.m. yesterday, amid heavy rains.

But the 43-year-old investigator for the Makati Department of Public Services (DPS) never made it to his office.

As he waited for a ride on A. P. Reyes Street in Barangay Tejeros, Makati City near the Sta. Ana racetrack, three unidentified men casually walked up to him and shot him several times in the head.

Police said Enriquez was killed instantly.

The assailants then fled on foot, leaving behind three empty shells from a 45-cal pistol.

"He had just alighted from a tricycle he had taken from his house to catch a ride to his office. The gunmen really waited for him on that street," said Senior Insp. Gary Reyes, chief of the Makati Police Criminal Investigation Section, citing initial police findings.

Enriquez, a resident of H. Santos Street in Barangay Carmona, was on his way to the DPS headquarters on Ayala Avenue Extension, investigators said.

"We are still checking if he had enemies. Hopefully by tomorrow, we could already establish the motive," Reyes told the INQUIRER.

"But based on our initial information, it could be a personal matter because his colleagues said he had no work-related problems," he added.

Police said they already have leads on the identity of the suspects but Reyes did not give details for the meantime.

"We are already developing an angle and we are already looking at some persons who could be involved in the killing," he told the INQUIRER.

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that vendors at the Marikina Public Market have a dress code?

THE MARIKINA Council passed in 1997 Ordinance No. 239 imposing a dress code on market vendors in the city, prohibiting them from wearing shorts or a *sando* (sleeveless undershirt). City officials said the ordinance was in line with their cleanliness drive. The program was deemed successful, that is why in 2000, the council amended the ordinance to include all business establishments in Marikina. *PDI Research*

METROBRIEFS

NBI, POEA team-up

THE NUMBER of illegal recruitment cases has more than doubled in the past six months as compared to the same period last year, according to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA). POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldos said hard times may have resulted in the 250 percent hike in complaints from victims of illegal recruitment during the first half of 2006. To help address the problem, officials of the POEA and the NBI yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement to facilitate the growing number of complaints against illegal recruiters. "The POEA would now provide us with the technical assistance and relevant data to expedite our investigation and eventual prosecution of the suspects," NBI Deputy Director for Special Investigation Services Victor Bessat said. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Thieves rob colonel

THIEVES broke into the van of a police colonel in the pay parking area beside the Podium Mall in Mandaluyong City on Tuesday morning, carting away a travelling bag containing P150,000 in cash. Senior Supt. Manolito Labador, assigned at the Philippine National Police Directorate for Operation in Camp Crame, left his Isuzu Big Horn in the parking lot at about 10:30 a.m., police said. He went to a coffee shop at the mall but when he returned minutes later, the back door of the van was already open and his bag was missing. Apart from the cash, his bag also contained his passport which had been issued only that morning, a plane ticket and clothes, including at least five Lacoste shirts. Police said Labador was scheduled to leave for Indonesia. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

'Kawawa naman the President'

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE BANNER STORY OF THE INQUIRER yesterday saying that Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga waited nearly two hours before he decided against the proposal to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo did not surprise this writer.

I heard from Palace sources that Senga was recommended for appointment as AFP chief by Cabinet officials who had called for the resignation of Ms Arroyo last year at the height of the "Hello Garci" scandal.. The renegade officials became known as "Hyatt 10."

The President was inclined to appoint Navy chief Vice Adm. Ernesto de Leon as AFP chief of staff. I personally knew this for a fact. But she deferred to her favored Cabinet officials, like former Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, who were rooting for Senga.

Besides, Senga was a special friend of the wife of one of those allegedly behind the "GMA Resign" movement. His closeness to the lady dates back to his stint as commander of the North Luzon Command. Against this backdrop, now you know why Senga vacillated.

* * *

Senga, however, denies he vacillated in his support for his Commander in chief. But two hours is a long, long time for one to decide at a very critical moment whether or not to stand by his President or lead rebellious soldiers against her.

If Senga didn't vacillate, it would have only taken him seconds to make that momentous decision and order the leaders of the rebellious troops arrested on the spot. Obviously, the President made the wrong choice when she named Senga Armed Forces chief of staff.

* * *

"*Kawawa naman* the President," as *colegialas* would say about Ms Arroyo being surrounded by people who don't respect her or who would leave her during a crisis.

Another cabinet official who could not be relied upon by Ms Arroyo is her defense secretary, Avelino Cruz who was nowhere to be found during the standoff at the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio. A Palace source said the President was trying to reach Cruz through his cellular phone so she could order him to proceed to Fort Bonifacio during the crucial moments. But Cruz allegedly refused to answer the President's call and ignored her text messages. Cruz came out only after the Bonifacio crisis had been resolved.

* * *

My friend and *compadre*, Felipe "Philip" Cruz Jr., denies the allegation of former Ambassador Roy Señeres that he was one of those involved in the plot to oust GMA on Feb. 24.

Cruz said that Señeres came to his residence uninvited when he and Iñigo Zobel were having a business meeting. Cruz and Zobel are partners in a restaurant venture.

"He (Señeres) told us he had on his cell phone a recording of what he claimed to be an original copy of the Garci tape. We agreed that we would listen to the recording so we could compare it with the other tapes," Cruz said.

The construction magnate said Señeres then told them about his plan to form a transition government. He was also soliciting financial support from us, Cruz added. "We told him (Señeres) we would never allow anybody to use us against the government," Cruz said.

* * *

Chito Orbeta and Dolly Domingo, janitor and clerk at the Bureau of Customs, respectively, are not your ordinary blue collar workers.

Orbeta and Domingo, assigned at the bureau's valuation and classification division, allegedly own big houses at the City Homes Village in Biñan, Laguna. Both of them reportedly own luxury vehicles.

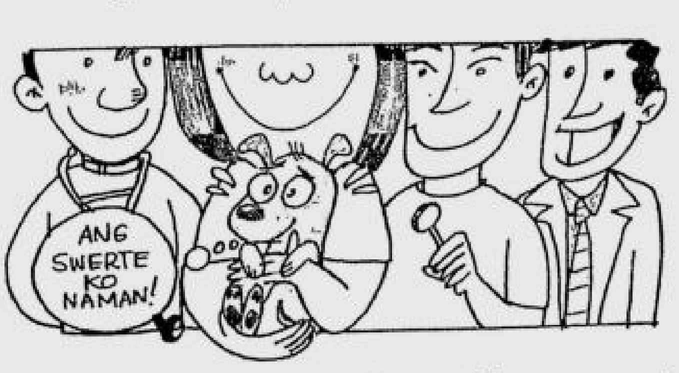
Their unexplained wealth was featured in a lifestyle check conducted by "Imbestigador," a private eye show on GMA 7.

The Office of the Ombudsman investigated the luxurious lifestyles of the two customs employees, but nothing has come out of it.

The question is, how could a floor cleaner and a paper pusher become so rich?

Tiger, the puppy, finds new home—and hopefully, a new nose

By Marlet D. Salazar
Contributor



ANG SWERTE KO NAMAN!

TIGER, A FOUR-MONTH-OLD dog, lost part of his nose when he was ran over by a tricycle in Sampaloc Ugong, Valenzuela City last May.

A man who felt uncomfortable looking at the flap of skin hanging loosely from the puppy's face then cut it off, completely exposing Tiger's nostrils.

Marian Barola, a neighbor, took pity on the dog and alerted the Animal Rescue Team of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).

Dr. Jeffrey Chua, PAWS Animal Rehabilitation Center (PARC) shelter manager, said he was shocked when he saw Tiger. He knew the pup needed to be treated right away but first, he had to convince its owner to give up the dog. "If an animal to be rescued has an owner, we cannot just snatch the dog away even if it is for the animal's welfare," Chua said.

It was not an easy task. Chua said he spent hours talking with Tiger's owner. "The owner didn't want to give him away," Chua said. After much convincing, Tiger's owner finally agreed to give up the dog and turn him over PAWS.

Tiger, who had been without a nose with two weeks, was immediately brought to the Animal House in Aurora Boulevard where he was given first aid and antibiotics.

Only recently, he was adopted by a woman who, upon seeing the dog, immediately expressed a desire to care for him. She also started looking for a doctor who could give him an artificial nose.

Dr. Nielsen Donato of Vets in Practice in Mandaluyong, who has been practicing for 16 years, was tapped for the job. The instant Donato saw Tiger, he knew it would be a tough case. "He lost his nose but the wound had not healed," he said. "But because Tiger was obviously determined to survive, I took up the challenge that I could do something about his condition," Donato said.

The doctor felt up to the job since he had done different prosthetic procedures in the past, including creating an artificial beak for a Philippine Rufous Hornbill and a Black Palm Cockatoo. He had also installed titanium-made upper and lower canines on a jaguar.

"A team of doctors composed of veterinarians, a dentist, a dental technician, and an oro facial prosthetic technician will assist in the surgery," Donato said. "Four of them are Filipinos, one is American, and the other is Japanese." At the moment, however, putting on a permanent artificial nose would have to wait since Tiger is still growing.

After much deliberation, the team decided to wait until the pup was one-year-old. Donato said that he does not expect a lot of problems to crop up while Tiger awaits the operation.

Despite his missing nose, however, Tiger is getting along just fine, his sense of smell fully functional. According to Tiger's new owner, the dog is very playful and affectionate, following her all the time around the house. "He seems to know who genuinely cares for him," she said.

CAMPUS TOUR
The Gandang Palmolive campus tour took off recently at the Jose Fabella Memorial High School in Mandaluyong City with Mandaluyong Mayor Neptali Gonzales and wife Quennie (right and second from right, respectively) as special guests. The grooming and personality seminars were designed for high school students in more than 100 schools metrowide and nationwide. Also in photo are Metro Manila Mayor Spouses Foundation president Mayor Marides Fernando, Cesar Melo, Colgate Palmolive Philippines Inc. general manager, and Palmolive Naturals endorser Ricky Reyes. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A FILE picture taken Feb. 10, 1933 shows Albert Einstein and his second wife Elsa at El Mirador Hotel in a California desert resort. AFP

Letters reveal mysteries of Einstein's love affairs

JERUSALEM—ALBERT EINSTEIN had half a dozen girlfriends and told his wife they showered him with "unwanted" affection, according to letters released on Monday that shed light on his extra-marital affairs.

The wild-haired Jewish-German scientist, renowned for his theory of relativity, spent little time at home. He lectured in Europe and in the United States, where he died in 1955 at age 76. But Einstein wrote hundreds of letters to his family.

Previous-released letters suggested his marriage in 1903 to his first wife Mileva Maric, mother of his two sons, was miserable. They divorced in 1919 and he soon married his cousin, Elsa. He cheated on her with his secretary, Betty Neumann.

In the new volume of letters released on Monday by Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Einstein described about six women with whom he spent time with and received gifts from while being married to Elsa.

In the early 1980s, Elsa's daughter, Margot, gave almost 1,400 letters to Hebrew University, which Einstein helped found.

But Margot directed that the letters not be released publicly until 20 years after her death. She died on July 8, 1986.

Some of the women identified by Einstein include Estella, Ethel, Toni, and his "Russian spy lover," Margarita. Others are referred to only by initials, like M. and L.

"It is true that M. followed me (to England) and her chasing after me is getting out of control," he wrote in a letter to Margot in 1931. "Out of all the dames, I am in fact attached only to Ms L., who is absolutely harmless and decent." In another post to Margot, Einstein asked his stepdaughter to pass on "a little letter for Margarita, to avoid providing curious eyes with tidbits." The new batch of letters for the first time included replies from Einstein's family, Hanoch Gutfreund, chair of the Albert Einstein Worldwide Exhibition at Hebrew University said.

This, he told reporters, helped shatter myths that the Nobel Prize-winning scientist was always cold towards his family.

"In these letters he acts with much greater friendship and understanding to Mileva and his sons," Gutfeund said.

Gutfeund said that though Einstein's later marriage to Elsa was best described as a "marriage of convenience," he wrote to her almost every day, describing, among other things, his experiences touring and lecturing in Europe.

"Soon I'll be fed up with the (theory of) relativity," Einstein wrote in a postcard to Elsa in 1921. "Even such a thing fades away when one is too involved with it."

Einstein lived and studied in the 1930's at Oxford, where he hid from the Nazis. A German colleague, he said in a letter to Else, had told him "to not even come near the German border because the rage against me is out of control."

In the same letter, which he wrote in 1933, less than a decade before the start of World War II and the Nazi Holocaust, Einstein writes: "One fears everywhere the competition of the expelled 'brainy' Jews. We are even more burdened by our strength than by our weakness." *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Plot to harm Thaksin probed

BANGKOK—Thai authorities were investigating reports of a plot to "harm" the prime minister, the intelligence chief said Wednesday, as security around Thaksin Shinawatra was significantly increased. "There were reports of a plot to harm the prime minister two weeks ago, and we are checking whether the reports are true," Jumpol Manmai, the head of the National Intelligence Agency told The Associated Press. He did not provide other details. Thaksin, who normally has 12 bodyguards, was recently provided an additional 30 security agents from the National Security Center. Thaksin also hired an additional 10 guards to trail his family. *AP*

30 Taliban killed in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR—Afghan and coalition security forces involved in a massive anti-Taliban operation killed 30 more rebels on Tuesday as US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld visited the country. The early morning air strike in southern Helmand province was targeted at a Taliban commander and associates who had "actively planned and carried out attacks on Afghan and coalition forces," a coalition spokesperson told AFP. It "resulted in the estimated death of at least 30 Taliban fighters," Captain Julie Roberge told AFP. It was not immediately clear if that included the commander. *AFP*

Somali warlord surrenders to Islamists

MOGADISHU—One of Mogadishu's last warlords holding out against powerful Islamists surrendered after losing most of his territory in two days of fighting that killed more than 140 people, militia sources said on Tuesday. "It has become necessary to surrender and give peace a chance," a militiaman loyal to warlord Abdi Awale Qaybdiid told Reuters. Qaybdiid is the last of an alliance of US-backed warlords who called themselves an anti-terrorism group. He kept fighting after the Islamists routed the other warlords and seized the Somali capital last month. *Reuters*

Saddam trial adjourned for 2 weeks

BAGHDAD—The judge called a two-week recess in the trial of Saddam Hussein on Tuesday, hoping to end a boycott of the trial by the former Iraqi leader and his lawyers, but he warned that if they won't come back, court-appointed lawyers will make Saddam's closing arguments. The lawyers for Saddam and three top co-defendants in the case announced a day earlier they would not appear unless the court met a list of demands, including greater security after the slaying of one of their colleagues last month. Chief judge Raouf Abdel-Rahman made no sign he would meet the conditions, but said the lawyers have a duty to defend their clients. *AP*

Iraq PM shrugs off civil war fears

BAGHDAD—Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki shrugged off fears that Iraq was plunging into a civil war even as more than 40 people were killed on Tuesday, many of them in raging sectarian bloodshed. "I don't see the country falling into a civil war despite the regrettable activities of certain people who ignore that Iraq is united," Maliki told reporters in the Kurdish city of Arbil in the north of the country. "The security services are still in control of the situation and we would like to see matters move towards political (compromise) rather than resort to force," he added. *AFP*

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

A. Pursuant to Section 1, Rule 7 of the Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC-009), as amended, the public is hereby invited to the panel interview of the following applicants for the position of DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN FOR MINDANAO, at the Division Session Hall Ground Flr., New Supreme Court Bldg.:

Thursday, July 27, 2006, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

1. **ARANCON, MARIA CORAZON A.**
2. **AVILA, EUSEBIO M.**
3. **BENDIGO, RAUL B.**
4. **CHIONGSON, ROBERTO S.**
5. **DARAY, MARIVIC T.**

Thursday, July 27, 2006, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

1. **ELMAN, RODOLFO M.**
2. **MACABANDO, PACA-AMBUNG C.**
3. **MONTEROSO, HUMPHREY T.**
4. **SIPACO, ALBERTO JR. B.**

The four other applicants **APOSTOL, Pelagio S.; ESPAÑOL, Jose Jr. M.; LANTORIA, Gerardo Jr. B.;** and **SIAYNGCO, Manuel DJ.** have already been interviewed by the JBC on June 16, 2006.

B. The Judicial and Bar Council also announces that the following are applicants for different vacant judgeship positions:

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC): (REGION VIII) - ALLEN, NORTHERN SAMAR: (Br. 23) CAMPOMANES, Marilyn Ronquillo; CLEMENS, Myrna Molintas; EBDANE, Romeo Sr. P.; ITAO, Romeo D.; LLUZ Leopoldo C.; MABUTIN, Odelon S.; QUILANTANG, Romeo A.; TANDICO, Filemon Jr. A.; TORREVILLAS, Manuel F. Jr. **(REGION IX) - PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR:** (Br. 22) CANDA, Alejandro T.; DAYOT, Exequiel M. III; POLOYAPOY, Tirsendo C.

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES (MTCC): (REGION I) - BAGUIO CITY: (Br. 1) BACULI, Rene B.

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT (MTC): REGION VIII) - LEYTE, LEYTE: DAPULA, Rodrigo O.; FORTUNA, Leah Tiozon; LIM, Dhida Labiran; MONTEJO, Manuel Jr. B.; POSION, Marisa Renomeron; TROCINO, Anita Menzon.

MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT (MCTC): (REGION VI) - DUMALAG-TAPAZ, CAPIZ: BAGUIO, Sebastino A.; BARRIOS, Bienvenido Jr. P.; CATALAN, Vicente Atlas R.; STA. ANA, Willie T. **(REGION X) - MANTICAO-MAAWAN-LUGAIT, MISAMIS ORIENTAL:** ARROYO, Renato T.; DAING, Celenito N.; DAJAO, Samson N.; QUIÑONES, Leonor Sumagat; RAAGAS, Edmundo V.; ROSALES, Vincent Filomeno B.; RUGAY, Braulio L. Jr. **(REGION XII) - BALOI-PANTAR-PANTAO RAGAT, LANAO DEL NORTE:** EDRES, Anuar A.; MACUMBAL, Arassad M.; MARANGIT, Sittie Gumama; PANGCATAN, Hasmin Itao; PRETE, Miriam Rovira **DITSAAN-RAMAIN-BUBONG, LANAO DEL SUR:** PIMPING, Mahadi M.

The public may submit any sworn complaint, written report, or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants not later than JULY 24, 2006 to the JBC Secretariat.

C. The JBC is now accepting applications for judicial positions in the following courts:

NCR
CALOOCAN CITY
RTC Br. 125

REGION I
ABRA
MTC Bucay
MTC Langagilang
1st MCTC Pidigan-San Quintin-Langiden
3rd MCTC Pilar-Villaviciosa-San Isidro
4th MCTC Manabo-Boliney-Tubo-Luna
5th MCTC Sal-lapadan-Bucloc-Dagioman
6th MCTC La Paz-Lagayan
7th MCTC Dolores-San Juan
ILOCOS NORTE
8th MCTC Paoay-Currimao
ILOCOS SUR
MTC Bantay
MTC Sto. Domingo
3rd MCTC Caoayan-Sta. Catalina
4th MCTC Narvacan-Nagbukel-Santa
5th MCTC Sta. Maria-Burgos
6th MCTC Santiago- San Esteban
7th MCTC Banayoyo-Lidliddaa-San Emilio
8th MCTC Galimuyod-Salcedo
10th MCTC Cervantes-Quirino
11th MCTC Sta. Cruz-Sta. Lucia
12th MCTC Tagudin-Suyo
13th MCTC Alilem-Sugpon
LA UNION
MTC Santol
MTC Luna
MTC Naguilian
MT. PROVINCE
1st MCTC Barlig-Sadanga
4th MCTC Natonin-Paracelis
PANGASINAN
MTC Anda
MTC Balungao
MTC Bolinao
MTC Mangatarem
MTC Sta. Maria
MTC Umingan
MTCC Br. 1, Dagupan City
1st MCTC Burgos-Mabini-Dasol
3rd MCTC Aguilar-Bugallo
5th MCTC Urbiztondo-Basista
8th MCTC Alcala-Bautista
10th MCTC Natividad-San Quintin

REGION II
BATANES
MTC Itbayat
MTC Sabtang
1st MCTC Basco-Mahatao
CAGAYAN
MTC Abulog
MTC Camalaniugan
MTC Buguey
MTC Rizal
MTC Sta. Ana
1st MCTC Claveria-Sta. Praxedes
2nd MCTC Sanchez-Mira-Pamplona
3rd MCTC Allacapan-Lasam
8th MCTC Aparri-Cagayan (Brs. 1 & 2)
IFUGAO
1st MCTC Banaue-Hungduan
2nd MCTC Lamut-Kiangan-Tinoc
3rd MCTC Potia-Aguinaldo-Mayaoyao (Mayoyao)
4th MCTC Lagawe-Hingon
ISABELA
RTC Br. 18, Ilagan
4th MCTC Maconacon-Divilacan
7th MCTC Palanan-Dinapigui
8th MCTC Angadanan-San Guillermo
12th MCTC Mallig-Quezon
14th MCTC Ramon-San Isidro
15th MCTC Jones-San Agustin
KALINGA APAYAO
MTC Lubuagan
1st MCTC Tinglayan-Tanudan
4th MCTC Luna-Pudtol
5th MCTC Flora-Sta. Marcela
6th MCTC Kabugao-Conner-Calanasan
NUEVA VIZCAYA
MTC Ambaguio
MTC Bambang
MTC Kasibu
MTC Kayapa
3rd MCTC Villa Verde-Quezon
4th MCTC Aritao-Sta. Fe
QUIRINO
MTC Diffun

REGION III
AURORA
MTC Dingalan
1st MCTC Casiguran-Dilasag-Dinalungan
2nd MCTC Maria Aurora-Dipaculao
3rd MCTC Baler-San Luis
BATAAN
MTC Mariveles
2nd MCTC Orani-Samal
3rd MCTC Orion-Pilar
4th MCTC Bagac-Morong
NUEVA ECIJA
MTC Aliaga
MTC Bongabon
MTC Carranglan
MTC Gen. Tinio
MTC Guimba
MTC Jaen
MTC Lupao
MTC Pantabangan
MTC San Antonio
MTC Sto. Domingo
MTC Talugtog
2nd MCTC Gen. M. Natividad-Llanera
3rd MCTC Laur-Gabaldon
4th MCTC Cabiao-San Isidro
PAMPANGA
2nd MCTC Mexico-San Luis
ZAMBALES
MTC Botolan-Cabangan

REGION IV
CAVITE
MTC Noveleta
LAGUNA
MTC Alaminos
1st MCTC Luisiana-Cavinti
2nd MCTC Magdalena-Liliw-Majayjay
3rd MCTC Nagcarlan-Rizal
4th MCTC Lumban-Kalayaan
6th MCTC Siniloan-Famy
7th MCTC Sta. Maria-Mabitac
MARINDUQUE
RTC Br. 38, Boac
MTC Gasan
MTC Mogpog
MTC Torrijos
MINDORO OCCIDENTAL
MTC San Jose
MTC Sta. Cruz
MTC Sablayan
1st MCTC Abra de Ilog-Paluan
2nd MCTC Lubang-Looc
3rd MCTC Magsaysay-Rizal-Calintaan
PALAWAN
MTC Culion
2nd MCTC Coron-Busuanga
3rd MCTC El Nido-Gaudencio C. Abordo
4th MCTC Taytay-San Vicente
5th MCTC Araceli-Dumaran
7th MCTC Quezon-Balabac-Marcos
9th MCTC Brooke's Point-Española
QUEZON
MTC Calauag
MTC Dolores
MTC General Luna
MTC Guinayangan
MTC Macalelon
MTC Mauban
MTC Mulanay
MTC Pagbilao
MTC Real
MTC Tagkawayan
MTC Tiaong
MTC Unisan
4th MCTC Infanta-Gen. Nakar
5th MCTC Polillo-Panukulan
6th MCTC Burdeos-Jomalig-Patranongan
7th MCTC Atimonan-Plaridel
8th MCTC Alabat-Quezon-Perez
9th MCTC SAn Narciso-Buenavista
10th MCTC San Francisco-San Andres
ROMBLON
1st MCTC San Andres-Calatrava
2nd MCTC Corcuera-Concepcion-Banton
3rd MCTC Looc-Alcantara-Sta. Fe-San Jose
6th MCTC San Agustin-Imelda

REGION V
ALBAY
MTC Pio Duran
MTC Rapu-Rapu
CAMARINES NORTE
RTC Br 38, Daet
MTC Paracale
MTC Jose Panganiban
1st MCTC Capalonga-Sta. Elena
MCTC Imelda-San Vicente-San Lorenzo
CATANDUANES
2nd MCTC Baras-Gigmoto
3rd MCTC Panganiban-Viga-Bagamanoc
4th MCTC Pandan-Caramoran
MASBATE
MTC Claveria
2nd MCTC Mandaon-Balud
3rd MCTC San Fernando-Batuan
4th MCTC Placer-Cawayan-Esperanza
SORSOGON
MTC Bulan
MTC Donsol
MTC Pilar
2nd MCTC Bulusan-Barcelona
3rd MCTC Matnog-Sta. Magdalena

REGION VI
ANTIQUE
6th MCTC Libertad-Caluya
ILOILO
MCTC Sara-Ajuy
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
MTC Kabangkalan
1st MCTC Calatrava-Toboso
MTCC S.S. San Carlos City

REGION VII
CEBU
11th MCTC Malabuyoc-Ginatilan-Alegria
12th MCTC Moalboal-Badian-Alcantara
BOHOL
5th MCTC Trinidad-San Miguel-Bien Unido
6th MCTC Ubay-Carlos P. Garcia
7th MCTC Alicia-Ambini
8th MCTC Candijay-Anda
9th MCTC Guindulman-Duero
15th MCTC Bilar-Sevilla
16th MCTC Carmen-Batuan
17th MCTC Sierra Bullones-Pilar
20th MCTC Catigbi-an-San Isidro Sagbayan

REGION VIII
EASTERN SAMAR
1st MCTC San Policarpio-Arteche
4th MCTC San Julian-Sulat
LEYTE
MTC Albuera
NORTHERN SAMAR
MTC Bobon
MTC Laoang
MTC Palapag
3rd MCTC Pambujan-Silvino Lubos
9th MCTC Capul-San Vicente
SOUTHERN LEYTE
MTC San Francisco
MTCC Maasin City
1st MCTC Macrohon-Padre Burgos
2nd MCTC Malitbog-Tomas Oppus
7th MCTC Pintuyan-San Ricardo
WESTERN SAMAR
1st MCTC Sto. Niño-Almagro-Tagapul-an
2nd MCTC Sta. Margarita-Tarangnan-Pagsanjan

REGION IX
SULU
MTC Jolo
1st District Jolo
1st MCTC Indanan-Parang-Maimbung-Arolas Tulawie (Talipao)
2nd MCTC Patikul-Panamao-Marungas-Panguntaran-New Panamoc
3rd MCTC Luuk-Kalingalan Kaluang
4th MCTC Siasi-Tapul-Lugus-Pandami-Pata-Tongkil
TAWI-TAWI
RTC Br. 26, Sapa-Sapa
1st MCTC Simunol-Balimbing-Panglima-Sugala
2nd MCTC Sitangkai-Sibutu
3rd MCTC Tandu Bas-South Ubian-Sapa-Sapa
4th MCTC Mapun-Turtle Islands
5th MCTC Bongao-Languyan
ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE
MTC Sibuco
4th MCTC Siocon-Baliguian-Siraway
6th MCTC Labason-Gutalac
ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
RTC Br. 19, Pagadian City
MTC Manicahan-Taluksangay
MTC Tambulig
6th MCTC San Miguel-Dinas-Lapuyan
7th MCTC Dimataling-Tabina-Pitogo
9th MCTC Labangan-Tukuran
10th MCTC Ramon Magsaysay-Midsalip-Sominot
11th MCTC Mahayag-Dumingag-Josefina
13th MCTC Kumalarang-Lake Wood-Bayog
15th MCTC Margo sa Tubig-Vicencio Sagun
ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY
2nd MCTC Naga-Titay
3rd MCTC Kabasalan-Siay-Payao
4th MCTC Olutanga-Mabuhay-Talusan
12th MCTC Malangas-Imelda-Diplahan

REGION X
AGUSAN DEL NORTE
RTC Br. 34, Cabadbaran
1st MCTC Magallanes-La Nieves
3rd MCTC Jabonga-Kitcharao
4th MCTC Cabadbaran-Remedios T. Romualdez
AGUSAN DEL SUR
RTC Br. 7, Bayugan
MTC Prosperidad
1st MCTC San Francisco-Bunawan-Rosario
2nd MCTC Trento-Sta. Josefa-Veruela
3rd MCTC Loreto-La Paz
4th MCTC Esperanza-San Luis-Talacogon
BUKIDNON
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MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL
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1st MCTC Calamba-Baliangao
2nd MCTC Sapang Dalaga-Concepcion
MISAMIS ORIENTAL
MTCC S.S. Gingoog City
MTC Medina
OZAMIZ CITY
MTCC Br. 3
SURIGAO DEL NORTE
7th MCTC Loreto-Libjo-Tubajon
8th MCTC Dapa-Soccoro
10th MCTC Del Carmen-San Isidro-San Benito
11th MCTC Sta. Monica-Burgos

REGION XI
COMPOSTELA VALLEY
MTC Maragusan
1st MCTC Compostela-New Bataan
4th MCTC Mabini-Pantukan
DAVAO DEL SUR
4th MCTC Malalag-Sulop
DAVAO DEL NORTE
MTCC Tagum City
NORTH COTABATO
MTC Midsayap
3rd MCTC Kabacan-Carmen-Banisilan
5th MCTC Pigkawayan-Alamada
DAVAO ORIENTAL
MTC Baganga
1st MCTC Cateel-Boston
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SOUTH COTABATO
1st MCTC Norala-T'boli-Sto. Niño
SURIGAO DEL SUR
1st MCTC Cantilian-Carrascal
3rd MCTC Tago-San Miguel
7th MCTC Hinatuan-Tagbina

REGION XII
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MTC Sultan Naga Dimaporo
8th MCTC Sapad-Nunungan
LANAO DEL SUR
12th SCC Wao
MTC Calanogas
3rd MCTC Ganassi-Madamba-Pagayawan
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MAGUINDANAO
MTC Kabuntulan
MTC Shariff Aguak
3rd MCTC Ampatuan-Sultan Sa Barongis
4th MCTC Pagalungan-Buluan-Datu Paglas
5th MCTC Upi-South Upi
SULTAN KUDARAT
MTCC Tacurong S.S. Tacurong City
MTC Palimbang
1st MCTC Lebak-Kalamansig
2nd MCTC Lutayan-Pres. Quirino-Lambayong
4th MCTC Bagumbayan-Esperanza
5th Shari'a District-8
5th SCC Maganoy, Maguindanao
13th SCC Pikit, North Cotabato

Applications for all the above courts must be filed not later than September 14, 2006, addressed to Secretariat, 2nd Flr. Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. No. 552-9512 Fax No. 552-9598).

Applicants must submit 6 copies of each of the following:

Application Letter/Recommendation Letter with conforme of the recommendee
Personal Data Sheet (JBC Form I down-loadable from the JBC Website (http://jbc.supremecourt.gov.ph)
Picture (2x2)
Certificate of Good Standing or latest Official Receipt from the IBP National Treasurer
ITR for 2 preceding years
Clearances from NBI, Ombudsman, Office of the Bar Confidant and employer
Transcript of Records
Police Clearance from place of residence
Certificate of Bar Rating

July 12, 2006

(Sgd.) **MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA**
Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Secretary

(PDI - July 13, 2006)

RESCUE workers carry an injured passenger to the hospital from inside the mangled compartment of one of the bombed trains at Mahim railway station in Bombay July 11. AFP

World leaders condemn India blasts

Tragedy revives horrors of Madrid, London bombings

LONDON—LEADERS worldwide on Tuesday condemned a series of deadly train bomb attacks in India's financial capital Bombay (Mumbai) which claimed at least 190 lives and vowed to step up the global fight against terrorism.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who only last week marked the one-year anniversary of the July 7 London bombings, said his country stood united with India in a shared determination to defeat terrorism "in all its forms." "I condemn utterly these brutal and shameful attacks. There can never be any justification for terrorism. Our thoughts are with the victims and their families," Blair said in a statement.

Seven coordinated explosions ripped through packed commuter trains during evening rush hour in Bombay, killing at least 190 people injuring 464 in an attack Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called an "evil design" of terrorists. *(See story on Page A1)*

Suspicion fell on Islamists who have been fighting Indian rule in the disputed region of Kashmir.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said the tragedy had revived the horrors of a similar attack in Madrid two years ago, in which 191 were killed in coordinated bombs on four commuter trains.

"In the name of the Spanish government and on my own behalf, I want to express my profound sadness for these very serious terrorist attacks which have struck your country," Zapatero told Singh in a cable.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice responded by pledging to stand with India in the "war on terror." "There is no political cause that can justify the murder of innocent people," Rice said in a statement.

"The United States stands with India in the war against terror. Those responsible for these terrible acts should be swiftly brought to justice."

Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose country is regularly targeted by Chechen rebel strikes, called for the perpetrators to be "severely punished." "There is no, and there can be no, justification for a crime of such cynicism and monstrosity," he said in a statement.

"The terrorists guilty of this crime must be severely punished." India's neighbour Pakistan described the attacks as a "despicable act of terrorism." "Pakistan strongly condemns the series of bomb blasts on commuter trains in Mumbai, India," a foreign ministry statement said. *AFP*

RESCUE workers search for bodies inside the wreckage of one of the local trains hit by bombs at Mahim railway station in Bombay July 11. AFP

NY subway security tightened

NEW YORK—AFTER DEADLY COORDINATED attacks on packed commuter rail trains in India, New York City officials upped security measures on the subways, sending hundreds of additional police officers to patrol and conduct random bag searches.

The New York Police Department said the measures were precautionary and there had been no specific threat to New York.

"We take a terror attack in any place in the world, especially one on a public transport system, as a serious warning," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Tuesday.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which runs the system, also announced increased security on its rail lines, tunnels and bridges and in Grand Central Terminal and Pennsylvania Station.

During the evening rush hour, teams of police officers checked commuters' bags inside Penn Station and the Herald Square subway stop, located in the heart of one of Manhattan's busiest shopping districts.

"I don't know how much good this does, but it can't hurt," said commuter Steve Cohen, an actuary from Brooklyn.

The city began random bag searches a year ago in response to the mass transit bombings in London. NYPD officials have refused to say how many bags they have searched in the past year or specify where and when they search them. They argue that by making the searches unpredictable they can keep would-be bombers off-balance.

The city's 468 subway stations serve an average 4.5 million daily riders.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said there were no plans to raise the nation's threat level. *AP*

Basayev's death still shrouded in mystery

GROZNY, RUSSIA—THE SPECTACULAR killing of Russia's most wanted man, Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev, ends a years-long hunt for the fugitive who hid out in the mountainous territory in and around war-torn Chechnya.

But questions lingered Tuesday about the operation that Russian officials say led to Basayev's death when a dynamite-filled truck exploded close to his car in a village in neighboring Ingushetia. By some accounts the blast was accidental.

Russia's defense minister hailed the death of "our Bin Laden" as a "landmark event." Still, Sergei Ivanov warned that the 12-year struggle with Chechen separatist rebels—which has spread across the impoverished and mainly Muslim North Caucasus in Russia's south—was not over yet.

Russian newspapers reported Tuesday that Basayev's elimination resulted from a carefully planned secret service operation that used a shipment of weapons and explosives to ensnare Basayev.

Unnamed security officials quoted by the Vremya Novostei daily said the preparations took six months. Intelligence agents planted in his entourage led him to a trap in which Russian special services detonated the explosives at the moment when he got near the truck, the officials said.

The Komosmolskaya Pravda daily reported that the undercover agent who was traveling in Basayev's convoy and planted a detonator under the truck received a payment of up to $500,000.

But contradicting that version of events was talk of a missile strike.

The ITAR-Tass news agency, citing an unidentified law enforcement official in southern Russia, reported Tuesday that Basayev had been killed by a rocket that homed in on his phone.

Chechen rebel envoy Akhmed Zakayev denied that Basayev's killing occurred during a special operation, and insisted the explosion was an accident. *AP*

Israel expands offensive

GAZA—ISRAELI TANKS SWEPT INto the central Gaza Strip on Wednesday and an air raid targeting top Hamas commanders killed six Palestinians as Israel broadened a two-week-old offensive.

Israel has vowed to continue the operation, which has already cost the lives of over 65 Palestinians, until militants free captured Corporal Gilad Shalit and stop launching makeshift rockets over the border.

Dozens of armoured vehicles trundled into central Gaza before dawn, effectively cutting the main road down the territory from which Israel withdrew less than a year ago after a 38-year occupation.

Israel has rejected calls from the governing Hamas Islamist movement for negotiations on a prisoner swap for the 19-year-old tank gunner, whose abduction on June 25 has triggered the worst fighting between Israelis and Palestinians since 2004.

In an attempt to kill senior commanders of Hamas's armed wing, an Israeli air raid brought down a three-storey building on the northern edge of Gaza City.

At least six people, including two women and two children, were killed in the attack that turned the house into a tangle of twisted metal, broken concrete, blood and dust.

But the blast and air strike on a nearby car hurt only one Hamas leader, militants said. Abu Anas al-Ghandour, commander in northern Gaza, was not in a life-threatening condition. Hamas militants helped capture Shalit in a raid into Israel.

"There was an attack on a structure in the northern Gaza Strip used by senior members of the Hamas terrorist group," an army spokesperson said." *Reuters*

GENGHIS' WARRIORS

Mongolian horsemen in traditional costumes perform during the Naadam opening ceremony in Ulan Bator, Mongolia to celebrate the 800th anniversary of Genghis Khan's march to world conquest on Tuesday with festivities that mixed crass commercialism, genuine reverence and pure politicking. AP

Iran nuclear talks still at impasse

BRUSSELS—IRAN VOWED TUESday not to cave in to international pressure over its nuclear plans, as the European Union lamented a lack of progress in talks on a Western offer to defuse the standoff.

Tehran's top nuclear envoy negotiator, Ari Larijani, speaking after talks with European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana and other European officials, warned of a "long road" ahead to solve the crisis.

"The meeting was disappointing," Cristina Gallach told AFP, saying the latest round of discussions with the Tehran envoy "was not satisfactory." The comments came after hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, speaking in Tehran, promised Iran would continue sensitive nuclear fuel cycle work and would not back down.

"The Iranian nation is determined to obtain all of its rights, including full nuclear rights and the complete exploitation of the nuclear fuel cycle," Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying by the ISNA news agency.

Iran insists that it only wants to develop nuclear energy but its lack of cooperation with the United Nations nuclear watchdog and enrichment activities have raised suspicions that it is covertly trying to build an atomic bomb.

In an effort to get it to freeze uranium enrichment—a process needed to fuel a nuclear reactor but which could also be used to make a bomb—the West on June 6 offered Iran a package of economic and political incentives.

The Brussels meeting was aimed at taking stock of developments since then, and to lay the groundwork for talks in France on Wednesday between foreign ministers from the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany.

Solana said he would report to the ministers from the six powers which drew up the offer and "we will make an analysis ... to see how we proceed." *AFP*

Japan, S. Korea at odds over response to missile tests

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA ANGRILY accused Japan of arrogant and reckless remarks on Tuesday, a day after Japanese leaders raised what South Koreans consider a chilling possibility: a pre-emptive strike on North Korea that would violate Japan's constitution.

As discord escalated between Washington's major allies in the region, Christopher R. Hill, the assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, returned to China. Attention there focused on whether Beijing, North Korea's main ally, could persuade the North to ease tensions over its launching of seven missiles last Wednesday by returning to the six-party nuclear talks.

But China said it did not expect a quick resolution, nor did it support a move by Japan and the United States to pass a UN Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on North Korea. It said such a resolution would be an "overreaction."

"If approved, it will aggravate contradictions and increase tension," China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Jiang Yu, said at a news conference. "It will harm peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asian region, and hurt efforts to resume six-party talks, as well as lead to the UN Security Council splitting."

Hill's trip came hours after the Security Council delayed for a second day a vote on the Japan-sponsored resolution, which officials in China and South Korea fear could lay the groundwork for sanctions or even military action against the North.

The council delayed the vote while the Chinese deputy foreign minister and chief nuclear negotiator, Wu Dawei, was talking with the North Koreans in Pyongyang, the North's capital. Wu's mission was critical for Washington because Japan and South Korea continued to quarrel over how to react to North Korea's missile threats, a split that experts say North Korea will exploit.

"There was an important decision to postpone the vote on the resolution, because the Chinese government had an important diplomatic mission going on," Hill told reporters in Beijing. "Obviously we are in a rather crucial period."

Wu's visit to Pyongyang was seen as a test of China's increasingly doubtful influence on the recalcitrant government. Separately, Yang Hyong Sop, vice president of the North Korean parliament, arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for a trip that was scheduled to include a meeting with President Hu Jintao. *NYT*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Fiery starts for Ardina, Rodriguez in Junior World /A22

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SPORTS

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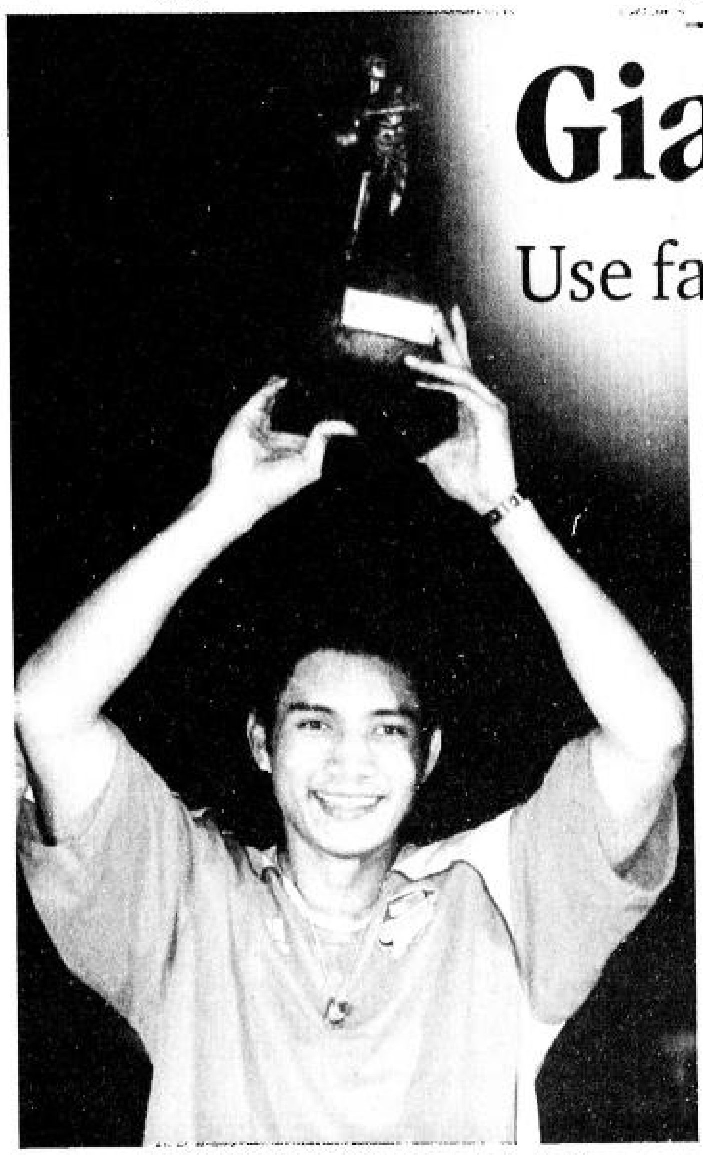

PATIENCE pays off for Yap, who bags the Most Valuable Player trophy in last night's annual awards. ERIK ARAZAS

Giants take 3-1 cushion

Use fast start to crush Bulls; Yap bags MVP award

GAME WEDNESDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
7:10 p.m.—Red Bull vs Purefoods (Game 5 of Finals)

By June Navarro

THE STORY MANY THOUGHT WOULD GO down the wire ended right in the first half.

Purefoods pulled a fast one and never looked back to move within a game of clinching the PBA Philippine Cup with a 99-81 win over Red Bull last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

There was actually no need for season MVP James Yap and Kerby Raymundo to put up scintillating figures as the Giants' support cast of Jun Limpot, Marc Pingris, Richard Yee and Paul Artadi proved too much for the Bulls.

Limpot led the jackrabbit start by scoring eight points in the first quarter, Raymundo's perimeter was impeccable and Artadi engineered fast-break plays as the Giants built a 32-11 spread.

The Giants sustained a great start by pulling away, 60-26, with Pingris virtually unstoppable inside the paint and Yee, who lost his shimmer in Game 3, getting back to his sneaky self underneath the basket.

"We came out with guns ablaze and doused every rally aspirations of Red Bull," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio after the Giants took a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

It was a night that couldn't have gotten any better for Yap, who edged Raymundo and Red Bull star Enrico Villanueva for the coveted MVP trophy. The sweet-shooting University of the East product won one of the closest races for the award a year after losing the rookie of the year trophy.

"This is the biggest achievement of my career," said Yap in Filipino. "But I'll be more happy if we win the championship."

The former UE Warrior was named MVP during the 2003 UAAP season and got Mythical Five honors in the PBL in 2004 but never tasted a championship except in high school.

"It's already done (awarding). My focus now is to win the championship not only for myself but for my teammates as well," said the 24-year-old Yap, who is known out of the playing court as the husband of the popular Kris Aquino.

Yap also joined Raymundo, Villanueva, Purefoods' Roger Yap and Lordy Tugade of Red Bull in the first Mythical team. Larry Fonacier of Red Bull was named top rookie.

More importantly, he helped add spice to Purefoods' first half charge to get nearer to the goal of winning a championship.

Yap buried back-to-back three-pointers, the second triple more

GIANTS/ A24

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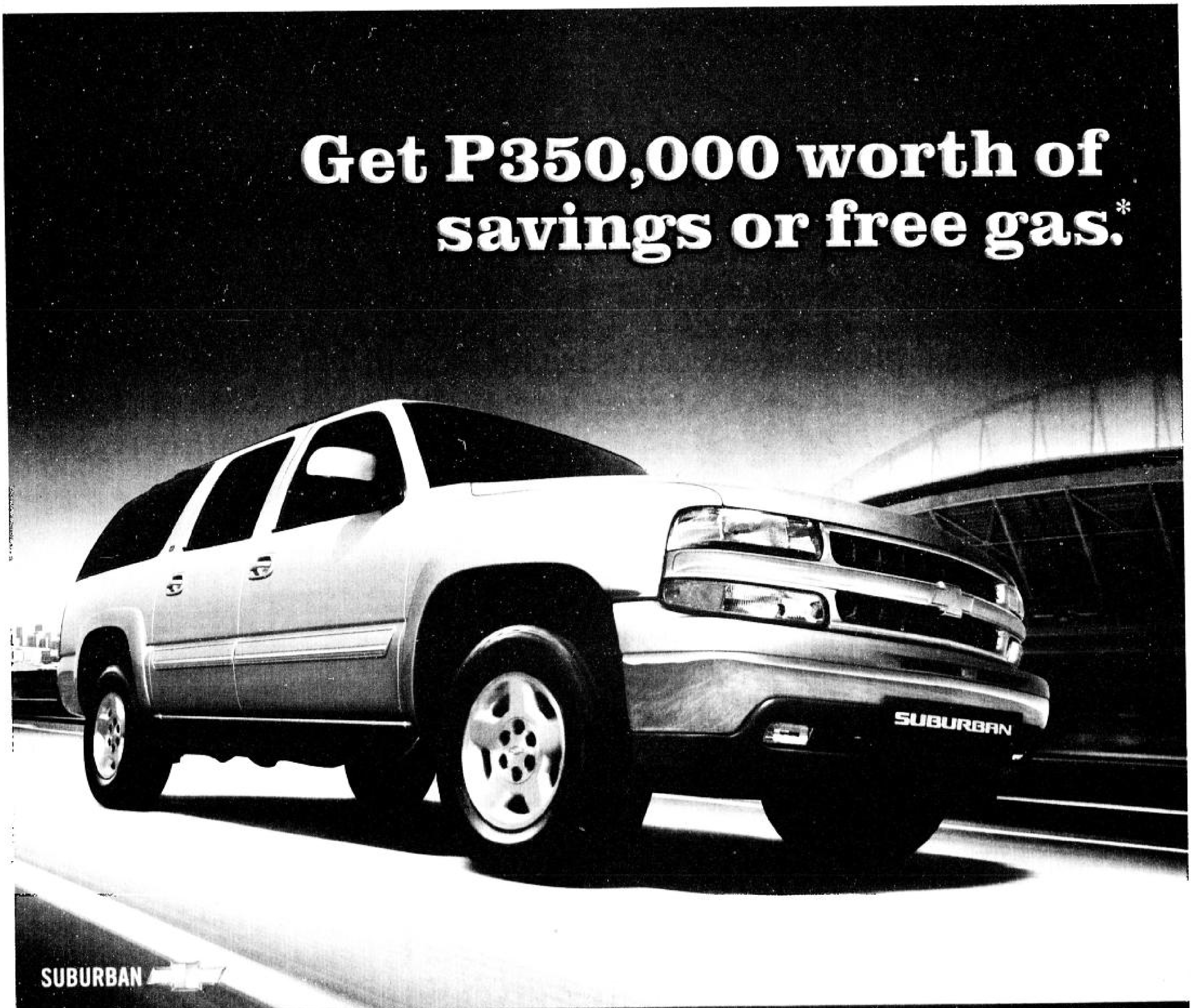

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Fiery starts for Ardina, Rodriguez in Jr World

By Jong Arcano

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—**IT'S not the arrow but the archer.**

Dottie Ardina, proving she can do magic with whatever golf clubs in her hands, moved into contention with a late barrage of birdies that gave her a three-under-par 70 on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) and solo second place in girls' Class C at the start of the Callaway Junior World Golf Championships in various courses here.

Cyna Rodriguez also sparkled in an otherwise quiet start by the Philippines in this annual tourney of a thousand players representing 52 countries, carding a one-under 71 to secure third place in girls' Class B.

Already one of the most feared entries here with a victory and three top 5 finishes in her last four Junior World stints, Ardina needed just a day to get comfortable with the borrowed clubs she got after losing her set to thieves last Sunday during the opening ceremony.

With a five-birdie round that included three in a row from the 14th at the Cottonwood course in sun-baked El Cajon, the 12-year-old Ardina quickly took her expected place in the leaderboard and will tee off Wednesday trailing Japan's Airi Sugimoto by just a stroke.

Rodriguez used the experience of tuneup matches all over Asia the past months to give herself a strong chance of winning like Ardina.

A bogey on the last hole at the Oak Glen course of the Sycuan Resort sent her down to third in her division where Elisa Aoki of Florida (69) and Chirapat Jao-Javanil of Thailand (70) were leading.

Except for at least two age-group brackets, RP hopes in the other divisions faded with Filipino entries needing to overcome big deficits in the second round to salvage limited slots available in the final round.

Marvi Monsalve made the shot of the day, a 3-wood tee shot on the 18th hole of Cottonwood that bounced into the cup for her first ace. She will need more of those shots to survive the girls' Class C cut after she ended up with an 82.

"Everything is fine with my new clubs but I really miss my Callaway driver. It's my comfort club," said Ardina in Filipino after battling the tough afternoon conditions. She could have tied for the lead if not for a bad break on the 17th where her birdie attempt from 10 feet lipped out.

Of those remaining in the title hunt, Miguel Tabuena stood six shots behind in Class C after a one-under 72 at Cottonwood, Miggy Yee and JR Gonzales were five strokes off in sixth position in Class D with their 63s while Mia Legaspi and Abby Arevalo also trailed by five in a tie for fifth in girls' Class E.

Chloe Reyes was running third in girls' Class F nine shots behind the leader.

Marcel Puyat made up for the opening hiccup of Wolen Superal (75) with a 73 that enabled the scion of the popular clan to join the group in 18th place at the water-laced Lawrence Welk course.

In the 15-17 years action at Torrey Pines, Tonton Asistio submitted the best round of 74 among five RP entries which was good for a tie for 24th spot while Debbie de Villa was in a large group at 40th following a 77.

"It's not the kind of start we wanted but at least, we're in contention in several divisions. I expect the kids to go all out tomorrow," said delegation head Bang Mamaril.

MARVI Monsalve shows the ball she used to score her ace. ROGER MARGALLO

New Congress out of the question, says football president Romualdez

THE NEXT ELECTION AND REGULAR congress of the Philippine Football Federation (PFF) will be held in November next year and no proposal exists for the removal of the incumbent president in an Extraordinary Congress.

PFF president Johnny Romualdez stressed this yesterday in response to the call for holding a new congress and elections made by Laguna FA president Arturo Pacificador Jr. and National Capital Region FA head Jose Vito Borromeo during the PSA Forum Tuesday.

"All charges made in the Forum were already addressed earlier by the PFF," said Romualdez in a faxed message to the Inquirer yesterday.

He said anyone nominated for president and seconded may run in next year's election, adding that an Extraordinary Congress may be called only by the president or upon request of at least two-thirds of the members.

Romualdez pointed out that the president can be removed through a proposal by the Board of Governors to Congress and "no such proposal exists."

Earlier, Romualdez said recent actions by the LFA and NCRFA "indicate they are set to destroy Philippine football and the PFF by sensationalizing whatever fault they can (find), real or perceived."

"They seem to want to give the impression the PFF and its elected officials are pocketing funds intended for development. We categorically deny this as will be proven by the ongoing internal audit and as has been shown by the Fifa audits and the reports of our external auditors and reports to our Congress and to our Board of Governors," he said.

The two FAs want an audit to determine where about P90 million funds given to the PFF by the world football federation (Fifa) in the last three years were spent.

Romualdez said he had agreed to a request by Pacificador and NCRFA representative Ramon Jose to audit PFF's book "when the revocation of their (respective association's) SEC registration is lifted."

He added, however, that an internal audit is already being conducted by three provincial association presidents of the highest integrity and the LFA and NCRFA could ask them any question regarding the FFF's finances.

He emphasized that the NCRFA has the option to file estafa charges and the courts have the option to decide that the association has a legal identity despite the revocation of its SEC registration.

"But it is also our option to insist that the recalcitrants work on the lifting of these revocations before opening our books to them," said Romualdez. "It is also our option to name a reasonable time and date and to define reasonable procedures for any audit."

PSC to deal with private transport firms next week

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION will sit down and talk with the different private transport companies from which the 2005 Southeast Asian Games organizers owe at least P30 million starting next week, according to PSC commissioner Richie Garcia yesterday.

This is in line with the PSC's commitment to pay for the arrears left by the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee which reportedly amounts to more than P50 million.

Of the amount, P30 million was earmarked for the transportation of more than 10,000 foreign and local athletes and officials to and from the competition venues around the country, which hosted the SEAG last December.

The remaining P20 million, according to the PSC, was incurred for the food and allowances of more than 5,000 volunteers in the major hubs of the Games that include Metro Manila, Subic, Bacolod City and Cebu City.

Philsoc is also reportedly being dogged by the firm which printed the SEA Games Daily and the staff of its official website.

But Garcia said they will tackle first the transport firms and meet with their heads. The firms provided VIP cars, vans, buses and trucks during the week-long SEA Games.

He added that the PSC will ask the Pagcor to help them defray the expenses on top of the monthly subsidy they get from the National Sports Development Fund.

Wild gossip, play of words can't save RP football

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE HUNT FOR A COZY PRE-DAWN spot, where to savor the World Cup final piping hot, led to the discovery of the finest pizza in town, at Bobong Velez's Mezze', an exquisite eating and watering hole at the Greenbelt in Makati.

Make mine Caesar's salad toppings-assorted greens, atop the thin crust that's crisp, tender and perfectly warm-which turn into a star-of-the-restaurant-world the way these are prepared in Mr. Bobong's newest pride.

All seats were taken, as could only be expected, with top-seeded national writer Krip Yuson, for whom the host had reserved a table before the main screen, opting to do the watching somewhere at Ortigas after his retinue of friends and grand kids continued to swell by the minute.

No great pizza, of course, was France skipper Zinedine Zidane, a sports god in his country, but whose name suddenly became synonymous to soccer wildness after he was sent out for slamming his crazy head into the chest of one burly Italian defender.

***

The French team captain thus betrayed the even heartbeat of an entire nation that's famous for its civilized, mild-mannered citizens.

A dirty way, indeed, to punctuate a great career, but that's how the cookie crumbles--Zidane vividly displaying to the whole world how it does not pay to always take yourself too seriously.

Zidane could've been provoked. But it definitely did not feel good that one great player, who had been mentioned alongside the great Pele, would squander all the hard-earned myth and dignity in a single outburst of frustration.

Suddenly, the French were finding it rather hard to laugh at themselves. But could they be blamed for losing their cool?

Capturing the Jules Rimet would have more than made up for the national letdown following the controversial loss suffered by Paris (to London) in its bid to host the 2012 Olympics.

***

It would have been a great follow-up to the World Cup win by France in 1998 which also starred Zidane.

Well, here at home, those who honestly care for football could only squirm amid hideous claims that the development of the sport all over the country was on the right track.

In the first place, there are practically no tangible signs that football in the country is alive and kicking, except for sporadic skirmishes in remote areas.

OK, the sport of soccer, which once had rivaled basketball in popularity in the Philippines, may not be totally dead.

But it's in a pitifully decayed state, as could be gleaned from the lack of necessary vital activities in Metro Manila and immediate localities.

***

Of course, top officials of the Philippine Football Federation, who get millions in support annually from Fifa, governing body of world football, insist they are on the right track.

If there's something wrong about the sport here, so claimed PFF head Johnny Romualdez, it was in not having advertised the growth of football in the Philippines.

Romualdez mentions great football leaps out in Mindanao but, on the whole, there was nothing truly great to advertise.

There is definitely a better, surefire way to bring RP football back on its feet, as claimed by a group opposed to what they called the dictatorial rule at the PFF.

Romualdez has been accused of lack of transparency and professionalism.

Jun Pacificador, Laguna Football Association president, blasted Romualdez for abruptly canceling the national futsal (indoor soccer) which Laguna was all set to host last December.

Pacificador also cited the case of a Laguna football official who was suspended for 18 months by the PFF for attacking a player with a knife, but who ended up as a PFF adviser for youth development, "with an allowance to boot."

There was also the scrapping of the national squad to the Asian Under-19 tournament last January, because the PFF missed the registration deadline, Pacificador added.

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Meanwhile, Pocholo Borromeo, National Capital Region Football Association president, continued to challenge Romualdez to come up with an honest accounting of the millions in support funds that he gets from Fifa annually.

Romualdez, so claimed Borromeo, just continued to evade the issue.

Borromeo and Pacificador were joined by former PFF head Honesto Isleta in attacking Romualdez for failure of leadership.

In fact, Romualdez had previously hinted to this reporter how lucky he was for not getting sued for libel following insinuations in this column that millions in international football support funds to RP were not being properly utilized.

Romualdez coolly stuck to his worn-out claim: They've not advertised growth of football but it's there.

That, of course, is not easy to believe.

At best, the Romualdez claim could sound like wild gossip from someone who profits from empty football development.

Yes, unlike that great pizza at Mezze in Makati, football revival in the Philippines is nowhere near around the corner.

Zhuhai crash continues to haunt Tyson

TYSON Sy

ASIAN FORMULA three star Tyson Sy's harrowing crash in the last round of the series last month at the Zhuhai International Circuit in China continues to haunt him.

Aside from coughing up nearly P2 million, not P1 million as earlier reported, to rebuild his Dallara 304 nearly smashed to pieces when he slammed into Speedtech Asia teammate Gaby dela Merced's stalled car, Sy will have to shell out an additional $2,000 as fine for 'disregarding the double yellow flag" in effect during lap 8 of the 12-lap race.

The same fine has been slapped on Briton Dillon Battistini of JA Motorsports whose blocking maneuver on Sy in that fateful lap of Round 5 forced the 18-year-old Filipino to swerve to his right onto Dela Merced's car that had stalled in front of the grandstand a lap earlier.

The Hong Kong Automobile Association, one of the bodies that has jurisdiction over the race, had initially wanted to fine the two $5,000 each and their points earned in the race-12 for Sy (third) and 15 for Battistini (second)-be excluded from the standings.

The two, however, appealed to the Automobile Association of the Philippines, the body sanctioning the AF3 races, and got a reprieve.

Jun Espino, a member of the committee on motor sports of the AAP, yesterday said the two were fined for "disregarding the double yellow flag during the race because of unsafe racing conditions.

The reprieve on the points earned during Round 5 means Sy will go into Round 6 with his series-leading 87 points and 21-point lead over Battistini intact. The Briton, meanwhile, continues to enjoy a four-point lead over Filipino Dado Pena of Team Goddard and Irishman Ali Jackson of Aran Racing who are tied for third and fourth places with 52 points each.

Sy left for Zhuhai yesterday, shelving plans to delay his departure, to enable him to test his rebuilt racing machine on Thursday and Friday.

Maningding guns for victories in 2 disciplines

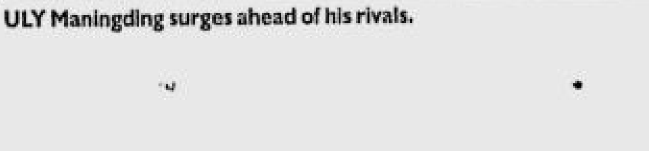
ULY MANINGDING'S SWEEP IN THE THIRD LEG of the 2006 San Mig Coffee-Petron Blaze Cup Philippine Touring Car Championships recently put him in strong contention for the Group 3 crown.

Bouncing back from a series of car problems in the past races, Maningding jumped to fourth place overall with 46 points, just seven points behind pace Pacho Blanco who amassed 53 points.

Also a strong contender in the slalom series, Maningding hopes to become the first driver in recent history to win the title in two different motorsports disciplines.

"Nothing sure but we'll try," said Maningding. "But for now, we have to focus on things we have to do to fortify our title chances in both slalom and touring cars."

Maningding is being backed by Explorer Motorsports, Cocoy Alberto Racing, College of St, Catherine, Subic Montessori, Aim High Transport, Autocircuit, Alelinos Catering and CSS Image Design.



ULY Maningding surges ahead of his rivals.

Spring Oil-Parañaque shoots for finals slot vs Pagadian

PAGADIAN CITY—SPRING COOKING Oil-Parañaque shoots for the second finals berth when it faces expansion Pagadian today in Game 2 of their best-of-three series in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the city gym here.

The Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Parañaque Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana are the slight favorites in the 6 p.m. contest.

If Spring-Parañaque repeats its 82-75 victory over Mayor Sammy Co's Explorers in Game 1, it would arrange a crown showdown with last year's winner Ozamiz Cotta.

Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Cotta Shrine cagers clinched the first finals slot by winning Game 2, 81-70, last Monday for a sweep of Batang Tagaytay in the other crossover semis.

This is the first time in three years that the Cooking Oil Masters have gone this far in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel.

"Pagadian is the league's second-best team in the classification round based on its win-loss record," said Spring-Parañaque coach Yong Garcia. "It is capable of coming back. We have to be ready for that."

PBL veterans Larry Rodriguez and Marvin Ortiguerra are expected to lead the Cooking Oil Masters' bid.

The Explorers are leaning on ex-pros Peter Naron, Bong Marata and Michael Orquillas and PBL veteran Lou Gatumbato.

"We lost control of the game in the end," said Pagadian coach Seguno "Bong" dela Cruz. "The boys need to stay focused tomorrow."

RP bows out of Jones Cup

A PHILIPPINE TEAM CAMPAIGNING AS SMC-Pilipinas bowed out of the William Jones Cup yesterday, dropping a 91-86 decision to Kazakhstan at the Taipei Physical Education College Gymnasium.

With their fourth loss in five outings, the Nationals blew their bid for a final four spot in the eight-team tournament.

The hastily formed RP squad ended a three-game slide by beating Australia two days ago and faced a must-win situation in its last three games.

Down by three points in the closing seconds, SMC-Pilipinas set up shooter Dondon Hontiveros for a wide-open three-open shot that rimmed out.

"We all crashed the boards and Kazakhstan got a breakaway layup after they got the rebound," said national coach Chot Reyes.

"I can't say enough about our players. Three of our four losses have been five points or less, and all came down to the final possession. We could've easily been 4-1. But such is basketball. What's important is we're investing in our future. And it looks bright with the 25 and under guys we have on this team."

The Nationals take on the Athletes in Action of the United States next.

Petron Visayas taekwondo up

CEBU CITY—THE BEST TAEKWONDO JINS in the Visayan region will take center stage on July 16 when they compete in the 2006 Petron Visayas taekwondo championships at the Cebu Doctors gym here.

According to Philippine Taekwondo association president Robert N. Aventajado, the event gives the sport's practitioners in the region the chance to show their skills.

No less than 500 jins from PTA-affiliated chapters, schools and branches throughout the Visayan region are expected to compete in the following divisions: senior men and women, junior men and women, mid-junior men and women, and grade school boys and girls.

"The tournament is part of PTA's grassroots program," stresses Aventajado, who is also chair of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

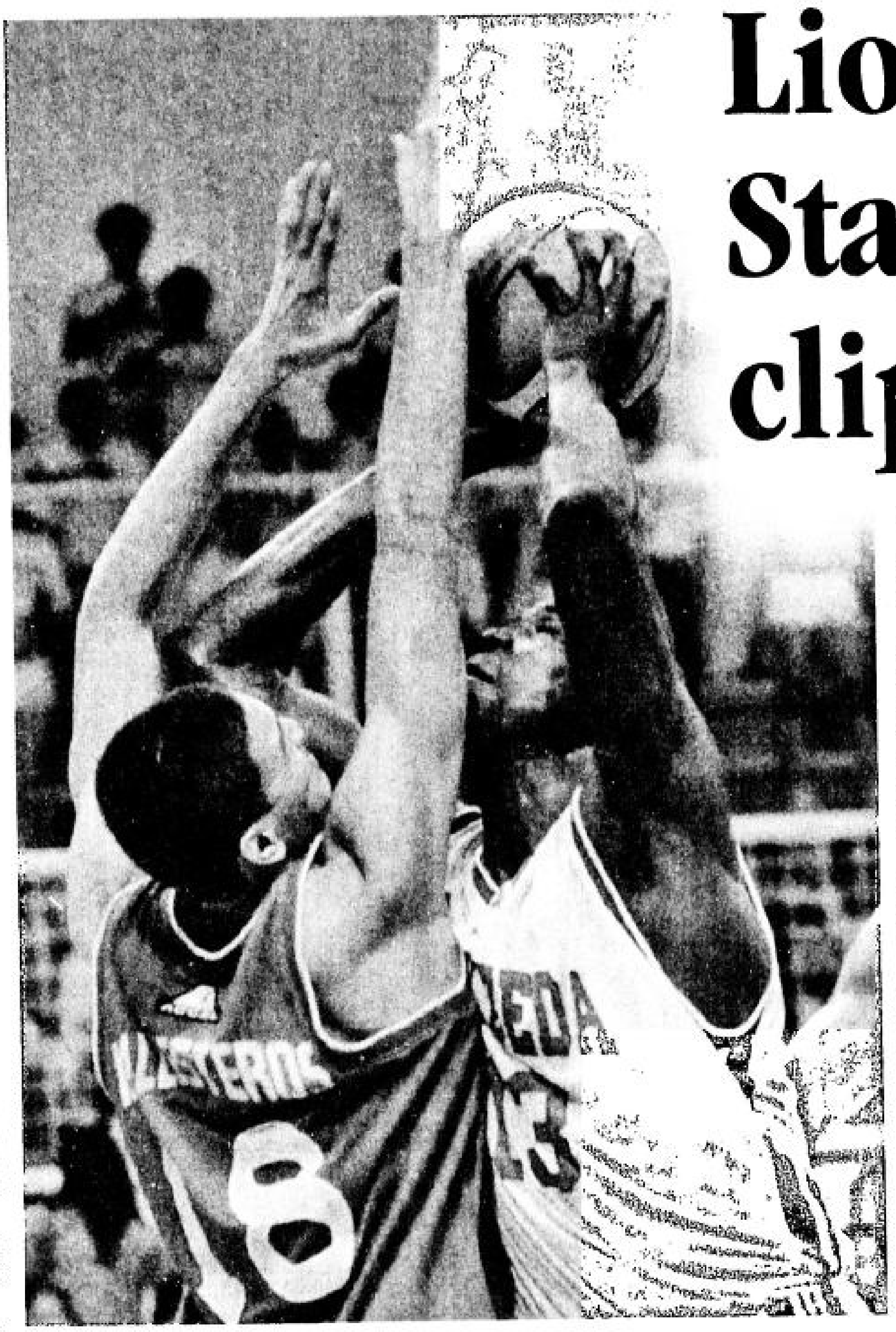
The Visayas championships will be featured by Taekwondo TV, which is hosted by Monsour del Rosario and John Paul Lizardo every Sunday 9:30 to 10 am over RPN9.

The opening ceremony is set at 9 am.

Martial arts enthusiasts and other sports buffs are invited to watch the event which is supported by Petron, Accel and the Philippine Sports Commission chaired by William "Butch" Ramirez.

Ateneo de Naga fellowship golf

THE ATENEO DE NAGA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS '81 is hosting a fellowship golf tournament on Sept. 1 at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club in Quezon City. Tee-off time is at 11 a.m. More than 100 golfers, including batch members and other Ateneo alumni, friends and supporters are expected to join the event which is part of the activity buildup for the grand Ateneo Homecoming on Dec. 30 at the Ateneo de Naga campus. Proceeds will be used to provide scholarship grants to deserving Bicolanos and support other AdeNU HS '81 projects. Call Maj. Cervantes at 911-60-01, local 6663 or 6204, 0920-9520297, or the event organizer, Team Ventures, at (02) 400-9745/ (02) 522-5953.



SAMUEL Ekwe (right) of San Beda attempts to put up a shot against Jason Ballesteros of San Sebastian in yesterday's game.

ERIK ARAZAS

Lions mangle Stags; Altas clip Bombers

By Marc Anthony Reyes

YESTERDAY'S HEAVY DOWNPOUR PROVIDED A PERFECT BACKdrop for San Beda's cold-blooded massacre of San Sebastian.

The Red Lions held the Stags to only five points in the first quarter and went on to score a 71-52 rout for their fourth straight win in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

San Beda tied Philippine Christian for second with a 4-1 record behind unbeaten defending champion Letran (3-0). SSC fell to 2-4.

Khiel Misa unloaded 31 points and Korean rookie Lee Sangmyeon completed a three-point play in the final minute as Perpetual averted an endgame meltdown to nip Jose Rizal University, 78-77, in the other seniors match. The Altas broke a three-game skid for a 2-3 record while the Bombers fell to their fourth straight loss.

Lee's three-point play boosted the Altas to a 78-75 lead after JRU had closed in at 75-76 behind John Wilson, Jayson Nocom and Mark Pradas in the last two minutes.

Samuel Ekwe also delighted the crowd as the 6-foot-8 Nigerian grabbed 23 rebounds on top of seven points, five blocks, three assists and one steal.

Earlier, the Light Bombers routed the Altalettes, 109-93, to post their third win in four games while handing their victims their fourth straight loss. The Red Cubs-Staglets clash was reset for tomorrow.

GAMES TOMORROW *(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)*
12 nn—San Beda vs San Sebastian (jrs)
2 p.m.—Mapua vs St. Benilde (srs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs Letran (srs/jrs)

Second Game (Srs)

PERPETUAL 78—Misa 31, Kong 15, Bauzon 14, Lee 8, Manuel 7, Mendoza 2, Racho 1, Reyes 0, Perturbos 0, Manalang 0, Liaz 0.

JRU 77—Wilson 12, Pradas 12, Nocom 12, Dedicatoria 12, Cagoco 12, Sena 9, Hayes 3, Bucao 3, Fenequito 2, Caspe 0.

Quarters: 25-17, 44-31, 67-57, 78-77.

Third Game (Srs)

SAN BEDA 71—Maggay 13, Aljamal 11, Angeles 11, Gamalinda 9, Menor 8, Ekwe 7, Tecson 5, Escobal 4, Hermida 3, Taganas 0

SAN SEBASTIAN 52—Vicente 14, Bulawan 8, Aquino 7, Viray 6, Raymundo 5, Delgado 5, Ballesteros 4, Lindaya 3, Juan 0, Sagad 0, Najorda 0, De Leon 0, Ampatuan 0

Quarters: 18-5, 37-20, 51-42, 71-52.

WBM poll: Pacquiao new pound for pound No. 1

MANNY PACQUIAO RECEIVED YET ANother accolade after being named by the World Boxing Media (WBM) as the new No. 1 pound-for-pound fighter in the world.

Pacquiao, who is coming off a victory over Mexican Oscar "Chololo" Larios here at the Araneta Coliseum, replaced Floyd Mayweather at the top of the prestigious list, the Tigerboxing.com reported.

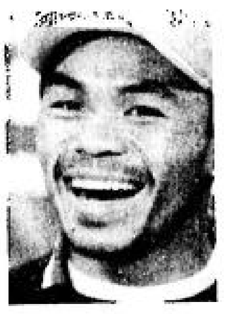
Voting among the members of the world media is usually done in secrecy, thus Tigerboxing.com speculated that Pacquiao's rise to the top was aided by that victory over Larios and his 10th-round stoppage of Mexican ring icon Erik Morales early this year.

Pacquiao has another scheduled fight against Morales—the third installment of their well-followed rivalry—in Las Vegas in November.

Trailing Pacquiao in the pound-for-pound list are some of the most notable names in boxing these days, including the second-ranked Mayweather.

Winky Wright ranked third in the poll despite his draw with Jermain Taylor. The middleweight champ, on the other hand, rose from sixth to fourth.

Bernard Hopkins made it to the mythical list at No. 10 after dominating Antonio Tarver in their last bout. The inactive Kostya Tszyu, meanwhile, slipped out of the top 10.



PACQUIAO

Reyes scores breakthrough win in karting

FRANCO REYES TOOK HIS FIRST victory of the season in the Mini Rok category during the fourth leg of the Shell Super Karting Series held on July 7 at the Boomland Kart-Trak in Pasay City.

The 10-year-old Reyes, a Grade 4 student at the Ateneo de Manila and is coached by former karting great Elson Carpio, started the race from last place and then worked his way up into second at mid-distance of the 22-lap contest.

Biding his time, Reyes trailed Renz Pascoguin for a long time before making a heart-stopping move four laps from the end to seize the lead, which he held onto until the checkered flag.

Third place went to Joey Orduña.

"It was a hard-earned victory ," said Reyes, driving for Jet Racing and sponsored by Industria Productions and Informermedia. "I didn't do well in qualifying because I had problems with grip in the rain, that's why I started from the back of the grid.

Reyes will see action in the next leg of the series, which is scheduled on Aug. 12 and 13 at the Enchanted Kingdom. He also has his sights on the next leg of the Asian Karting Open Championship which will be held in Indonesia next month.

REYES: Heart-stopping move

June 21-23, 2006
TMS Ship Agencies,
Overall

CHAMPIONS: Members of the TMS Ship Agencies Inc. pose after running away with the overall title in the recent National Open Track and Field Open in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija. Among those shown were coach Jeoffrey Chua, Ralph Waldy Soguilon, Albert Salcedo, Arnold Villarube, Henry Dagmil, Angelo Dalisay, Romel Donesa, Alex Gabito and Rene Herrera. Other team members are Sheena Atilano, Mercedita Manipol, Grace Milgar, Phoebe Que, Liza Yambao and Charlene Pagayon. Sportsman-businessman Terry Capistrano is president of TMS Ship Agencies Inc.

Villanueva rules Hiso-Baras bike race

FORMER TRADE TEAM RIDER ORly Villanueva ruled the 2nd RP Hiso Cycling Cup "Bike Rush in Baras" which started and finished in front of the Baras Municipal Hall in Rizal over the weekend. The 25-year-old native of San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija, broke away in the last phase of the 7-laps criterion race to outsprint rivals Sherwin Giamsay of Tarlac and provincemate Jay Tolentino en route to the title. Villanueva snatched the title from defending champion Victor Espiritu also a former Trade Team mainstay and Marlboro Tour titlist. "*Malakas ang kalaban, nakatulong din ang buhos ng ulan at patag na ruta, buti na lang nakakalas ako sa* last lap," said Villanueva, whose best clocking in the five-kilometer round lap was 7 minutes 50 seconds. The race was organized by Chicago-based sports patron Rolly Hiso and Marikina Cycling Club official Berting Rosales and hosted by Baras Mayor Willie Robles. Villanueva pocketed the P7,000 top prize and a yellow jersey while Giamsey and Tolentino received P5,000, P3,000, red jersey and blue jersey, respectively, from Hiso Sports Management. Hiso, a former national cyclist and cycling team manager (90's), urged Villanueva to train harder and promised to back Villanueva in his bid to compete in an international event in the US.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Express Strike (1), Play It Again (6), Wing-Away (2), El Cid (7)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Hard Way (4), Parrot Moe (7), Silver Place (2), Steel Smasher (4)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Sand Pebbles (7), Ginger Candy (8), Please Do (5), Diestra (3)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Sir Olizon (3) Samahan (9), Spoiler (4), Danielle's Angel (8), Magic Ewan Ko (1)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Arctic Desit (7), Don't Tell Ella (2), Renzio Stays (1), Maria Makiling (6)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Friendly Fire (5), Smooth Strike (6), Nifty Gritty (1), Western Dancer (2)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Romus (8), Kim Possible (1), Dixie Dash (7), Virgin Island (5), Makati Haven (4)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Angie Gray (4), Yokozuna (11), Easy Rider/Mr Lucas (5), Crystal City (2), Luck of the Irish (9), Batang Westside (8)

SPORTSWATCH

Defense & Arms Show up

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL SHOOTING ASSOCIATION (PNSA) head coach Orlando Marquez will conduct a seminar titled: "Women in Olympics Shooting Events" at the 2006 Defense & Sporting Arms Show Part II, starting today at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. The seminar is free of charge to show visitors and will be held on July 15 and 16, from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. The PNSA is a founding member of the Philippine Olympic Committee and is recognized by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF).

Fastest Win stakes P.5M

A GUARANTEED PRIZE OF P500,000 WILL BE DISputed in the Super Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan at San Juan Coliseum on July 22. The SJC management pegged the entry fee at P1,100. Each winner will get a bonus of P1,000. The fastest win champion will get the top prize of P75,000. Likewise, the first 10 winners will receive a mountain bike; last 10 winners, mountain bike; slowest win, P10,000 and washing machine and second slowest win, P5,000 and TV. Meanwhile, the no entry fee cockfights of SJC resume on Saturday.

Express derby at Las Piñas

MORE THAN 50 NON –STOP FIGHTS WILL SPICE up the Express 2-cock derby, a new derby format, at Las Piñas Coliseum beginning at 7 tonight. According to coliseum manager Alex Tobias, a participant can field two or three entries since only two gamebirds are needed per entry. Entry fee is only P3,300. Tonight's hosts are Munding Elicanal, Bernie Selva and Jhezil Farms. The annual Las Piñas 6-stag derby will be held on Aug. 24 and 26, with former Mayor Nene Aguilar as host. Screening of stags, 8-10 months old, will start on Aug. 1. Screening is set Saturdays and Sundays, from 1-5 p.m. Call 873-1040 and 874-3910.

Espiritu cagefest set July 30

SEVEN TEAMS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO JOIN the 10Th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament which unwraps on July 30. These are HSBC-HDPP Alabang, Home Cagers, Makati Stars, Las Piñas College Blue Lions, Osmena All Stars, Batang Tagaytay and Pangasinan Hundred Islands. Other interested team may call basketball talent manager Danny Espiritu at 09178456944 or Romeo Borromeo at 09217395558. .

SPORTS

JAMES: I believe in the direction this organization is headed. AP

Cavs fans breathe easy—James to stay

CLEVELAND—LEBRON JAMES AGREED early Wednesday to a three-year contract extension with the Cleveland Cavaliers, keeping the All-Star forward with the club through at least the 2009-10 season.

The contract includes an option that would allow James to extend the deal one season, the Cavaliers reported on their website. The contract, which James is yet to sign, will take effect after the 2006-07 season.

"I knew all along—and I had always said—that I wanted to stay here in Cleveland, so it's a terrific day for me and my family to actually make it official," James said in an interview on the team's website. "Now I can continue to concentrate on basketball and helping bring a championship to Cleveland."

Financial terms weren't revealed.

Although the 21-year-old James announced Saturday that he had agreed to an extension with the Cavs, the deal couldn't be finalized until Wednesday, when the NBA's moratorium on free agency ended.

The deal is a huge relief for a team that has risen into contention in James' three seasons and fans who were worried the superstar might leave Cleveland.

"If I didn't believe in this team and this organization and the direction that we're headed, I wouldn't have signed the extension," James said. *AP*

Lippi, Klinsmann resign

Champion coach cites scandal; German burned out

ROME—ITALY COACH Marcello Lippi resigned Wednesday, three days after guiding the Azzurri to their fourth World Cup title.

The resignation came at the heels of German coach Juergen Klinsmann's decision not to extend his contract with the national team.

Despite widespread calls for him to stay, Lippi suggested weeks ago that he would resign. He feels he and his son, Davide, were attacked personally in the corruption scandal tainting the domestic game.

"At the end of an extraordinary professional and human experience, experienced as the head of an exceptional group of players, I believe my role is over as the guide of the Italian national team," Lippi said in a statement.

While he is not under investigation, Lippi was questioned by prosecutors before the World Cup about alleged pressure he received to select certain players for Italy's national team. Davide Lippi is under investigation for his work at player agency GEA World.

Italian soccer federation vice president Giancarlo Abete said Lippi had told him during the round-of-16 stage that he intended to quit regardless of his team's performance.

In a statement, Abete praised Lippi for his "extraordinary professionalism and his ability leading the team."

In Frankfurt, Germany, Klinsmann stepped down and handed the reins of the national squad to Joachim Loew.

Klinsmann told reporters he was leaving to spend more time with his California-based family.

"I feel burned out," said Klinsmann, adding that he would take a six-month vacation. Loew, 46, had been Klinsmann's assistant for the past two years.

"I regret his decision, but we have to accept it," Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, co-president of the German soccer federation said.

Earlier, the mass-circulation Bild newspaper and the Sueddeutsche Zeitung reported in their Wednesday editions that Klinsmann will not extend his contract, which ended with the World Cup.

Klinsmann's rejuvenated team went beyond expectations by finishing third, after losing to eventual champion Italy 2-0 in the semifinals. *AP*

A BRUNED-out Juergen Klinsmann will go on a six-month vacation. REUTERS

But why?

OVER 90 PERCENT OF GERMANS polled, including some of his worst critics, wanted Juergen Klinsmann to stay. But the third-placed coach backed out saying he feels 'burned out.' Reuters, though lists six possible reasons for the decision: 1. Klinsmann was always unpredictable and unconventional during his playing career—he almost never stayed anywhere for more than two years and left some clubs, like Tottenham Hotspur, after just one season to move on; 2. He is close to his family and cherishes his anonymous life in California; 3. The DFB often clashed with Klinsmann during his two years in charge, challenging his decisions, denying several staff requests and hiring some executive personnel he opposed; 4. Klinsmann faced constant second-guessing and criticism of his California home base and tactics from newspapers; 5. He knows it will be hard to duplicate the success he has had in taking Germany to the World Cup semifinals and; 6. Klinsmann does not need the money. *Reuters*

Giants rout Bulls, take 3-1 series lead

From page A21

than a meter away from the arc with a second left before the break, as the Giants made it 66-34 at the half.

Yap tossed in 23 points, including eight straight markers when the Bulls pulled within 85-72 in the fourth, while Pingris had 18 points and 14 rebounds, nine of them offensive boards.

"We'll definitely go for it next game," said Gregorio. "The mind set is to always think that it would be the last game that we'll be playing."

Limpot, who has yet to taste a championship title in his 15-year career, posted a season-high 19 points while Roger Yap added 12.

Down 1-3, the Bulls will have to pull off a caper only one team in league history has achieved.

Ginebra came back from a 1-3 deficit in a best-of-seven series to stun Shell and capture the 1991 First Conference crown.

But it will take a week before the Bulls could do anything to redeem themselves. The Finals take a one-week respite and resume on July 19.

The scores:

PUREFOODS 99—Yap J. 23, Limpot 19, Pingris 18, Yap R. 12, Yee 9, Raymundo 8, Evangelista 4, Artadi 3, Castillo 3, Simon 0, Gamboa 0, Camaso 0.

RED BULL 81—Villanueva 25, Pennisi 13, Robinson 10, Fonacier 9, Bugia 8, Tugade 7, Baguio 5, Hrabak 2, Valenzuela 2, Najorda 0, Cruz 0.

Quarters: 32-11, 66-34, 82-63, 99-81.

Mountains beckon Tour riders, could unveil Lance successor

DAX, FRANCE—NOW FOR THE HARD part.

Having survived fast and dangerous racing on the flat, Tour de France riders veer Wednesday into the Pyrenees for their first encounter with the high mountains.

The steep, long, hard climbs should help separate out true contenders to succeed seven-time winner Lance Armstrong from those who can't make the gradient, offering a little clarity to a race devoid of any standout favorite so far.

The spotlight will move away from sprint specialists like Oscar Freire, winner of Tuesday's pancake-flat stage nine. Lithe climbers and riders eyeing the overall title, who need to get over the humps well if they are to win in Paris on July 23, will move to the fore.

Freire, a three-time former world champion, flashed past current world champion Tom Boonen and held off a late-surging Robbie McEwen of Australia to triumph in a grouped sprint finish Tuesday at Dax in southwest France. The 169.5-kilometer (105-mile) ride started in Bordeaux.

The win was the Spaniard's second of this Tour—consolation for missing the expected birth of his first child in coming days.

"It's better to be here winning, while not being at home, than being here losing," he said.

Contenders for the overall title did what they nearly always do in flat stages—stay safely out of the sprinters' way. The gap between race leader Serhiy Honchar of Ukraine and next best overall Floyd Landis of the United States remained unchanged at 1 minute.

American Levi Leipheimer's bad Tour got worse. He suffered a tire problem in the final stretch that cost him 26 seconds, to add to the large deficit he built up in the first long time trial last weekend. He is now 6:43 behind Honchar, which could rule him out of the title race.

Landis said riding consistently in the mountains would be key.

"All of the mountain stages can be potentially disastrous if you have a bad day," he said.

That comment came at a news conference Monday when he announced that he is racing with a painful arthritic hip that will need to be replaced after the three-week Tour, clouding his long-term career prospects. *AP*

WORLD RECORD

Liu Xiang (front) of China sets a world record past Dominique Arnold of the US in the men's 110-metre race at the IAAF Super Grand Prix athletics meeting in Lausanne. Inset shows the official time of Liu's record, 12.88 seconds, beating the old mark of 12.91. REUTERS

Maroons target 2-0 start vs Bulldogs; Tigers take on Falcons

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Memorial Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—UP vs NU (Srs)
4 p.m.—Adamson vs UST (Srs)

MINUTES AFTER WINNING HIS OPENING game in the UAAP men's basketball tournament, returning University of the Philippines coach Joe Lipa certainly looked proud.

Playing beyond expectations, Lipa's UP Maroons hardly seemed like a team with nine new faces.

"(The rookies are) confident because I know they're big winners and they're ably supported by the veterans," said Lipa as his young squad vies for a 2-0 lead at 2 p.m. today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Maroons escaped with a 94-92 triumph over the Sto. Tomas Tigers, who will gun for their first win versus the Adamson Falcons at 4 p.m.

Veteran playmaker Marvin Cruz bailed out the Maroons by burying a short jumper with only three-tenths of a second remaining.

But not many expected the Maroons to get a quick boost from freshmen Migs de Asis and Martin Reyes, the two recruits from 2005 UAAP juniors champion De La Salle Zobel.

The 5-foot-11 De Asis fired 18 of his 20 points from beyond the arc, including two clutch triples in the final two minutes.

Reyes also proved to be a deadly shooter, as the 6-foot-1 swingman scored all of his 12 points from the three-point lane.

While the Maroons' campaign looks promising, the UST Tigers just faced a big blow in their bid.

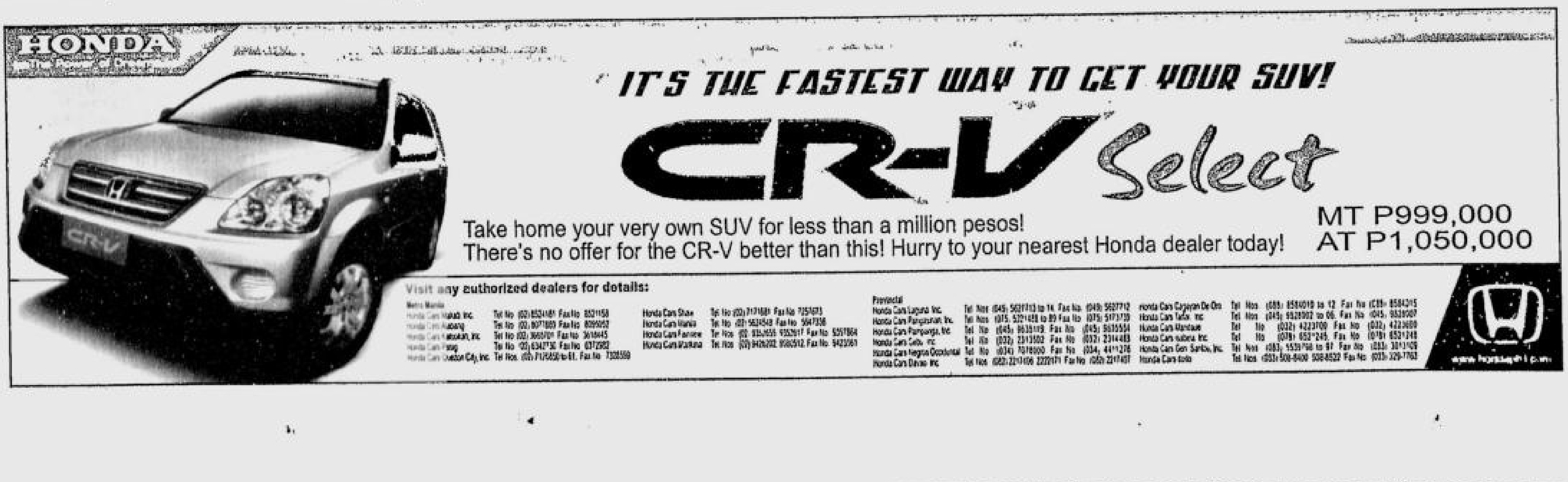
Veteran guard Jemal Vizcarra suffered a pulled hamstring and would be sidelined in the Tigers' next few games.

But rookie coach Pido Jarencio said his deep bench could easily make up for the absence of one of his team's top scorers.

"If someone comes in or someone leaves, we're okay," said Jarencio. "We're not worried. We're always thinking positive."

Jarencio added his Tigers failed to display their potential in their first loss versus the Maroons.

"That wasn't our game," said Jarencio. "We were out of focus. Maybe because this is a new team in terms of system. We still need to settle down." *Jasmine W. Payo*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ENTERTAINMENT

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DOLPHY arrives for the story conference on Monday.

Swanie joins the Puruntongs

Two queens and a king should a hit series make, but the director is on pins and needles

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE PURUNtongs are back, he said, and he didn't mean those ratty shorts made famous by Dolphy on "John & Marsha."

It was 48 hours before the first taping day for the new ABS-CBN sitcom, "John En Shirley," and veteran TV director Bert de Leon was on pins and needles.

"I'm very nervous," De Leon told INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday.

And well he should be, since the cast is led by Comedy King Dolphy and movie queens Susan Roces and Maricel Soriano.

"It will be my first time to direct all three," said De Leon, obviously daunted by the "casting coup."

Moreover, "John En Shirley" is a spin-off from the country's longest-running (1973-1990) and beloved comedy classic, "John & Marsha."

Dolphy and the late Nida Blanca had portrayed John and Marsha Puruntong, with Maricel as daughter Shirley and Rolly Quizon as son Rolly.

De Leon acknowledged "a certain amount of pressure." But they're not about to recreate the legend of "John & Marsha," he said. "This is a different show."

Will Dolphy, who will now play a widower, still wear his iconic boxer shorts?

"Maybe, but they're now branded—Louis Vuitton," De Leon jested.

"John En Shirley" is line-produced by KB Entertainment, owned by Kitchie Benedicto, whose family's station KBS 9 created the original "John & Marsha."

De Leon pointed out that Susan's character, Encarnacion or the "En" in the title, was part of the story from the start. He related: "When we were casting the role, we threw around lots of names. But

SWANIE/ A2-3

TWO INDAYS. Maricel "Inday Bote" Soriano and the late FPJ's true Inday.

PHOTOS: RYAN LIM

'Sanitizing' films against US laws

SALT LAKE CITY—SANITIZING movies on DVD or VHS tape violates federal copyright laws, and several companies that scrub films must turn over their inventory to Hollywood studios, an appeals judge ruled.

Editing movies to delete objectionable language, sex and violence is an "illegitimate business" that hurts Hollywood studios and directors who own the movie rights, said US District Judge Richard P. Matsch in a decision released Thursday in Denver.

"Their (studios and directors) objective ... is to stop the infringement because of its irreparable injury to the creative artistic expression in the copyrighted movies," the judge wrote. "There is a public interest in providing such protection."

Matsch ordered the companies named in the suit, including CleanFlicks, Play It Clean Video and CleanFilms, to stop "producing, manufacturing, creating" and renting edited movies. The businesses also must turn over their inventory to the movie studios within five days of the ruling.

Disappointed

"We're disappointed," CleanFlicks chief executive Ray Lines said. "This is a typical case of David vs Goliath. We're going to continue to fight."

CleanFlicks produces and distributes sanitized copies of Hollywood films on DVD by burning edited versions of movies onto blank discs. The scrubbed films are sold over the Internet and to video stores.

As many as 90 stores nationwide—about half of them in Utah—purchase movies from CleanFlicks, Lines said. It is unclear how the ruling may effect those stores.

The controversy began in 1998 when the owners of Sunrise Family Video began deleting scenes from "Titanic" that showed a naked Kate Winslet.

The scrubbing caused an uproar in Hollywood, resulting in several lawsuits and countersuits.

Directors can feel vindicated by the ruling, said Michael Apted, president of the Director's Guild of America.

"Audiences can now be assured that the films they buy or rent are the vision of the filmmakers," he said. *AP*

CLOCKWISE from right: JD Fortune, Kirk Pengilly, Tim Farris, Jon Fariss, Andrew Farris and Garry Beers

JD Fortune & INXS set Big Dome show

INXS, WITH BRAND-NEW LEAD SINGER JD Fortune, will perform at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City on Aug. 15.

The gig is the Aussie band's first in the country and is part of "INXS Switch Tour." Manila is one of the stops in the world promo tour for the album of the same title.

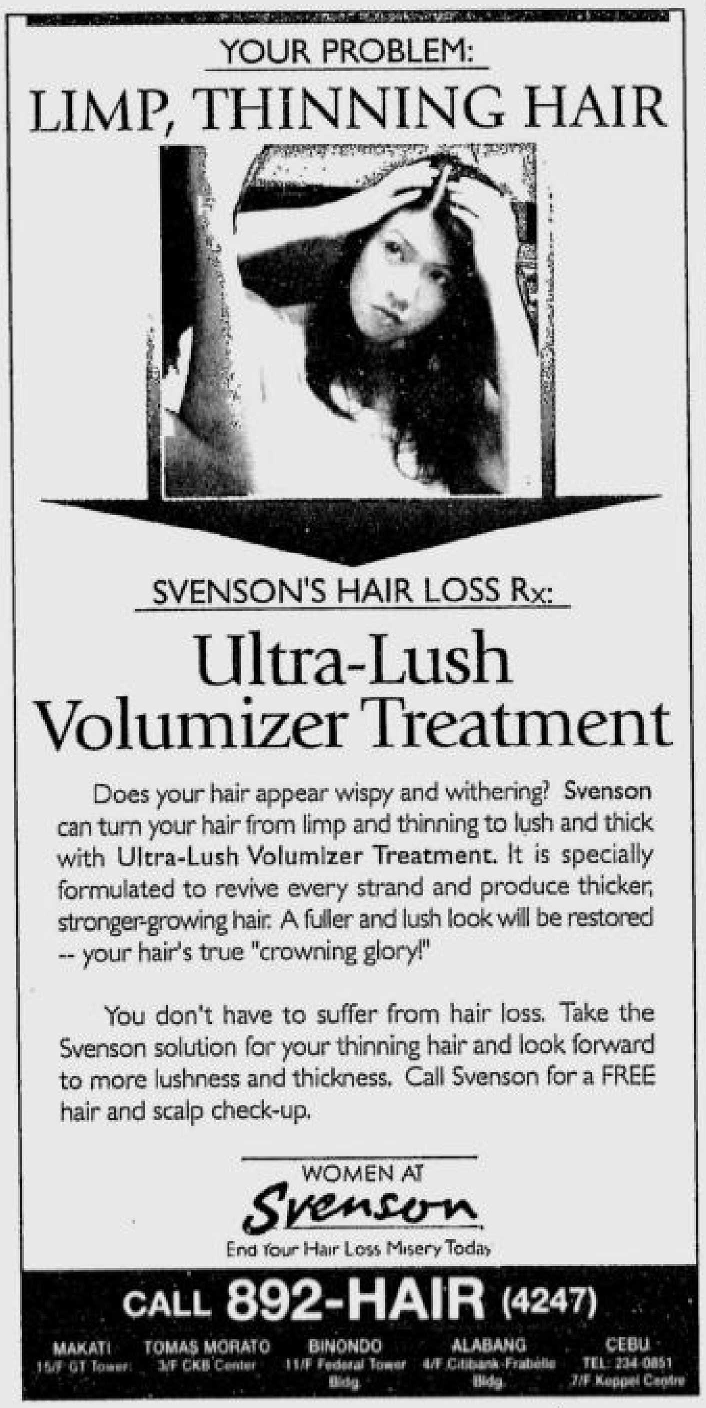
It is the band's first tour with JD, who won the front-man slot last year via "Rock Star: INXS," a hit TV reality series conducted to replace Michael Hutchence, who died in 1997.

Judges

The band members—Andrew Farriss (guitar, keyboards), Tim Farriss (lead guitar), Jon Farriss (drums), Garry Beers (bass) and Kirk Pengilly (saxophone, guitar)—served as judges on the show.

INXS (pronounced "in excess") traces its musical roots to Sydney, Australia, where it was formed in 1977 under the name The Farriss Brothers. It became known as INXS two years later. Throughout the 1980s and into the '90s, the band was a major force in Australian popular music, leading the way to international recognition and popularity for other Aussie groups.

For tickets—priced at P4,500, P3,500, P2,500, P1,000 and P500—call 911-5555.



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JUL 14 FRI 1:30 - 5:15PM - POPULAR JAPANESE DISHES 1. LEARN TO COOK JAPANESE STYLE TENDERLOIN STEAKS W/ BELL PEPPERS, MONGO SPROUTS, WHITE ONIONS; JAPANESE MIXED RICE (KAMAMESHI); YAKITORI (CHICKEN BARBECUE IN SKEWERS); MISO SOUP; BREADED PORK CHOPS (TONKATSU); SUKIYAKI; CUCUMBER IN JAPANESE VINEGAR DRESSING; SWEET DRIED DILIS (APPETIZER). P1,800. BY SYLVIA

JUL 15 SAT 1:30 - 5:15PM - POPULAR JAPANESE DISHES 2 - LEARN 8 DELICIOUS RECIPES! SHABU-SHABU W/ 2 SAUCES; ASSORTED CRISPY TEMPURA; GRILLED PORK & BEEF SLICE; UDON (VERY SPECIAL NOODLES); FRIED TOFU IN SPECIAL SAUCE; BREADED CHICKEN WINGS W/ VINEGAR SAUCE; JAPANESE MIXED FRIED RICE. PLUS BONUS RECIPES OF COMPLETE SUSHI BAR. P1,800. BY SYLVIA

JUL 18 TUE 1:30 - 5:15PM - LIGHT & AIRY ENSAYMADAS. CHEESEROLLS, SPECIAL EGG PANDESAL; PANDESAL W/ FILLING, CINNAMON ROLLS. BREAD-BAKING MADE EASY! P1,800. BY SYLVIA

JUL 19 WED 1:30 - 4:30PM - OPEN A COZY KOREAN RESTAURANT. LEARN TO MAKE THESE KOREAN SPECIALTIES: KIMCHI; SPINACH SALAD, MIXED RICE W/ KOREAN BEEF; BEAN SPROUTS; KOREAN PORK BARBECUE, DEEP-FRIED BEEF IN SKEWERS; CRAB & PORK FRIED RICE; KOREAN STYLE SOTANGHON; OJINGKO POKUM (SQUID IN HOT SAUCE); ROSE KUI; KOREAN BEEF STEW-TOPPED RICE. PLUS KITCHEN-TESTED BONUS RECIPES P1,800. BY SYLVIA

JUL 20 THU 1:30 - 4:30PM - MAX'S STYLE FRIED CHICKEN - JOLLIBEE STYLE CHICKEN W/ GRAVY, CHICKEN BURGER; DELICIOUS POTATO SALAD; SIZZLING GRILLED PORK CHOPS; FOUR SEASONS PUNCH; RIPE MANGO JUICE, MELON TAPIOCA W/ SAGO; GREEN MANGO JUICE P1,800. BY SYLVIA

JUL 21 FRI 1:30 - 5:00PM - OPEN A PIZZA PARLOR - LEARN TO MAKE THESE ITALIAN FAVORITES. MOZARELLA-TOPPED BIG & THICK CRUST PIZZA (BAKED IN A RECTANGULAR PAN) THIN CRUST PIZZA W/ DIFFERENT TOPPINGS, FETTUCINE ALFREDO; SPAGHETTI CARBONARA; BREADED VEAL STEAKS W/ LEMON. PEACH-FILLED CR4EPES W/ FRUIT SAUCE PLUS 12 BONUS RECIPES OF PASTAS & SANDWICHES P1,800. BY ERNEST

JUL 22 SAT 1:30 - 5:15PM - LEARN THE SOFTEST SIOPAO DOUGH EVER! - THE MOST DELICIOUS SIOMAI, KUAPAO (PEKING SIOPAO W/ MEAT FILLING & PICKLED MUSTASA) FISH HEAD SOUP, CAMARON RELLENADO; QUIKIAM W/ RADISH SALAD, STEAMED LAPA-LAPU, P1,800. BY SYLVIA

JUL 25 TUE 1:30 - 4:30PM - DELICIOUS RESTAURANT SPECIALTIES YOU WILL LOVE TO DO AT HOME! - GARLIC ROASTED MAGNOLIA CHICKEN W/ PEPPER STEAK SAUCE. MONTEREY BEEF TENDERLOIN CUBES SALPICADO; FETTUCINE W/ 3 DIFFERENT SAUCES; PESTO (GARLIC BASIL), BLACK SQUID INK, CREAMY MAYO CHEESE; HIGHLANDS SALAD W/ OLIVES & BLUE CHEESE DRESSINGS, HOT CARAMEL BANANA FUDGE BROWNIE PIE W/ CREAM. PLUS BONUS RECIPES OF CENTURY TUNA BURGERS; BEEF BURGERS W/ DIFFERENT DRESSINGS P1,800. BY ERNEST

JUL 26 WED 1:30 - 4:30PM - CHINESE COOKING. DIMSUM STYLE PORK SPARERIBS, SPICY CHICKEN FEET; SHRIMPS ON TOAST; BUCHI W/ SESAME SEEDS; AUTHENTIC HONGKONG-CHINESE CONGEE W/ DIFFERENT TOPPINGS. FISH FILLET, PORK; SZECHUAN VEGETABLES; BOLA-BOLA: PORK LIVER, KIDNEY, STOMACH P1,800. BY SYLVIA

JUL 27 THU 1:30 - 5:00PM - 2 KINDS OF ROASTBEEF - MONTEREY STANDING RIB ROAST & BACON-WRAPPED BONELESS ROAST W/ GRAVY; CREMA DE FRUTA; SIZZLING SHRIMPS IN GARLIC SAUCE; FRIED SQUID RINGS, CHICKEN ALEXANDER; SEAFOOD MEDLEY SOUP SERVED ON CRUSTY BREAD BOWLS FROM FRENCH BAKER P1,800. BY ERNEST

JUL 28 FRI 1:30 - 5:30PM - BAGUIO'S FAMOUS RAISIN BREAD. AMERICAN TASTY, HONEY BREAD, BRAIDED CHEESE BREAD, MORELLA & ERNEST BIG PANDESAL, SUPERSOFT CARMELITE BREAD IN A BUNDT PAN DELICIOUS BREAD MADE EASY! P1,800. BY SYLVIA

JUL 29 SAT 1:30 - 5:00PM - 9 SPECIAL BARBECUE; BEEF TERIYAKI IN SKEWERS; PORK SPARERIBS; PORK SPARERIBS W/ HOISIN SAUCE. MAGNOLIA CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS IN HONEY-SAUCE; (SATE A JAM) CHICKEN SKEWERS IN PEANUT SAUCE. BEEF RIBS W/ PEKING NOODLES, DELICIOUS PORK SPARERIBS. NEW KOREAN BEEF BARBECUE, NASIGORENG (INDONESIAN FRIED RICE); FERNANDO MIGUEL ERENETA'S CHICKEN HONEY. THE BEST PORK BARBECUE W/ SPECIAL PEANUT SAUCE. P1,800. BY ERNEST

AUG 1 TUE 1:30 - 4:30PM - EASY HONGKONG RESTAURANT COURSE. SIZZLING CHINESE STYLE STEAKS W/ MONTEREY BEEF TENDERLOIN; SHRIMP & CRAB CLAWS & BALLS IN NEST W/ SWEET & SOUR SAUCE. HONGKONG STYLE ASSORTED VEGETABLE PLATTER; MAGNOLIA STIR FRIED CHICKEN BREAST W/ CASUY; LAPU-LAPU IN CREAM OF CORN SAUCE; LOURDES FAT CRABS COOKED IN GINGER-GARLIC SPRITE. P1,800. BY SYLVIA

AUG 2 & 4 (WED & FRI) 1:30 - 4:30PM - MAKE MONEY BY LEARNING 15 DELICIOUS RECIPES IN 2 LESSONS. P2,600. INCLUDES INGREDIENTS. A SPECIAL FRUIT CAKE; 3 VERSIONS OF BROWNIES (DOUBLE CHOCOLATE FUDGE, CHOCO CARAMEL FUDGE, WALNUT TOPPED DARK & LIGHT BARS); 5 DIFFERENT KINDS OF WELL-KNOWN MUFFINS; 5 DIFFERENT KINDS OF CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES; MACADAMIA NUT COOKIES BY ERNEST

AUG 3 THU 1:30 - 4:45PM - CASA ARMAS' STYLE SOFT-TO-THE-BONE SPANISH ROASTED CHICKEN W/ BABY POTATOES, THE YUMMIEST BACON-WRAPPED MEAT LOAF W/ GRAVY; STEAMED THEN DEBONED WHOLE LAPU-LAPU FISH SALAD; OUR BEST HAM MACARONI PARTY SALAD. GOOD OLE' AMERICAN APPLE PIE. P1,800. BY SYLVIA

AUG 5 SAT 1:30 - 5:00PM - PUT UP A STEAKHOUSE. LEARN THE TECHNIQUES TO COOKING THE JUICIEST MONTEREY PORTERHOUSE STEAKS; BEEF TENDERLOIN STEAK ALA POBRE; DELICIOUS HOMEMADE GRAVY; CAESAR SALAD; ROAST ORANGE PORKLOIN; BEST-SELLING BAKED SPAGHETTI W/ 2 SAUCES. MAKE YOUR OWN CREPES SAMURAI. P1,800. BY ERNEST

AUG 8 TUE 1:30 - 5:00PM - GRILLING, SIZZLING, FRYING! BESTSELLERS! SISIG-CAPAMPANGAN. SIZZLING TADYANG NG BAKA NEW BONELES MAGNOLIA CHICKEN FILLET BARBECUE ON STICKS, KWEK-KWEK (COATED QUAIL EGGS ON A STICK W/ SWEET & SOUR SAUCE); CRISPY BUCHI ASADO PAO. P1,800. BY ERNEST

AUG 9 WED 1:30 - 5:00PM - MERIENDA FARE: NEW RECIPE DELICIOUS PANCIT PALABOK; LUMPIANG UBOD W/ HOMEMADE EGG WRAPPER; FRIED WANTON W/ SWEET & SOUR SAUCE; MAGNOLIA HOMEMADE UBE WRAPPER FOR LUMPIA, FRIED LUMPIANG SHANGHAI, MINI-FRUITCAKE BARS; SARAP-BAKED COCOROONS. P1,800. BY SYLVIA

AUG 10 THU 1:30 - 4:30PM - MONEY-MAKING FASTFOOD RECIPES! YUMMY CHICKEN INASAL; S&R HERBED ROASTED MAGNOLIA CHICKEN; CAJUN BURGERS W/ SPECIAL SAUCE; SPICY MAGNOLIA CHICKEN BURGERS; BAKED POTATO CHIP MAGNOLIA CHICKEN BREASTS W/ PESTO LINGUINE P1,800. BY ERNEST

AUG 11 FRI 1:30 - 5:00PM - VERY SPECIAL WELL-LOVED FILIPINO DISHES & SWEETS 1 - SUPER-SARAP NA PANCIT MOLO, KARE-KARE NI ATCHING LENI; MECHADO; GUINATANG MAIS; GUIA'S ILOILO RICE PUTO, CRISPY KANGKONG W/ 3 DIPS, UKOY ESPECIAL P1,800. BY SYLVIA

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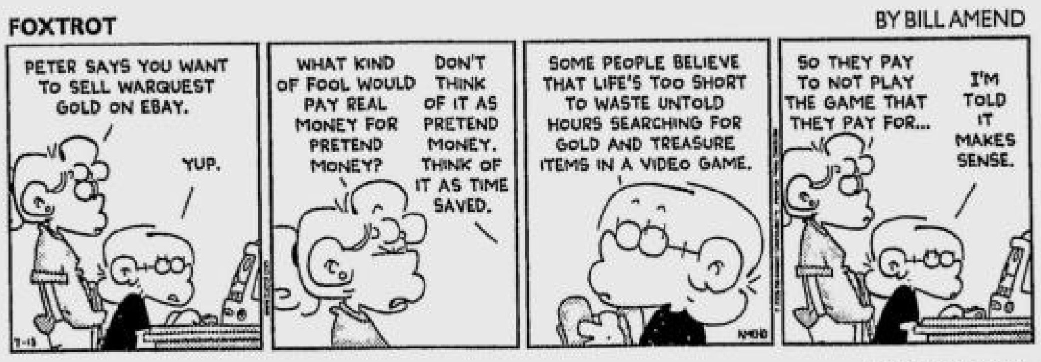
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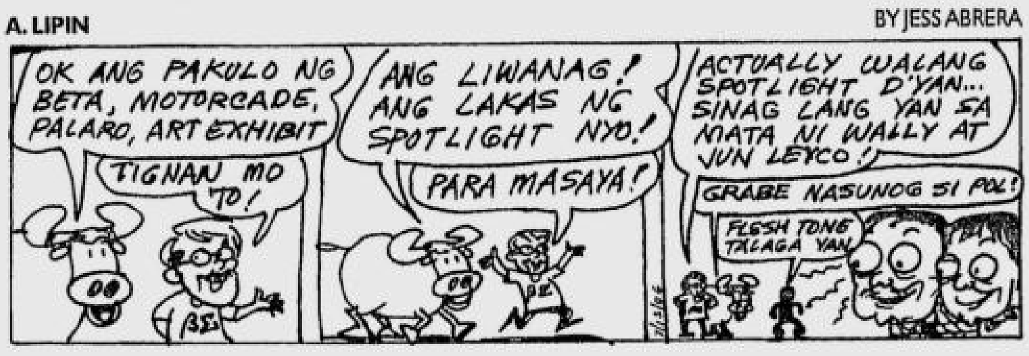
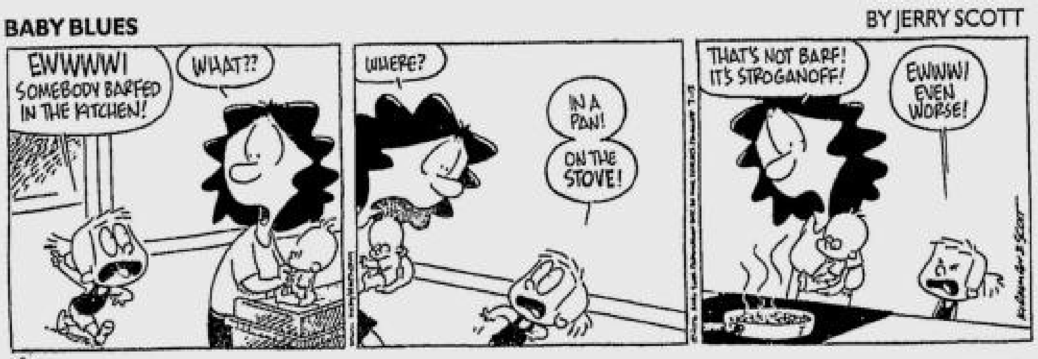
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


OK ANG PAKULO NG BETA, MOTORCADE, PALARO, ART EXHIBIT
TIGNAN MO 'TO!
ANG LIWANAG! ANG LAKAS NG SPOTLIGHT NYO!
PARA MASAYA!
ACTUALLY WALANG SPOTLIGHT D'YAN... SINAG LANG YAN SA MATA NI WALLY AT JUN LEYCO!
GRABE NASUNOG SI POL!
FLESH TONE TALAGA YAN

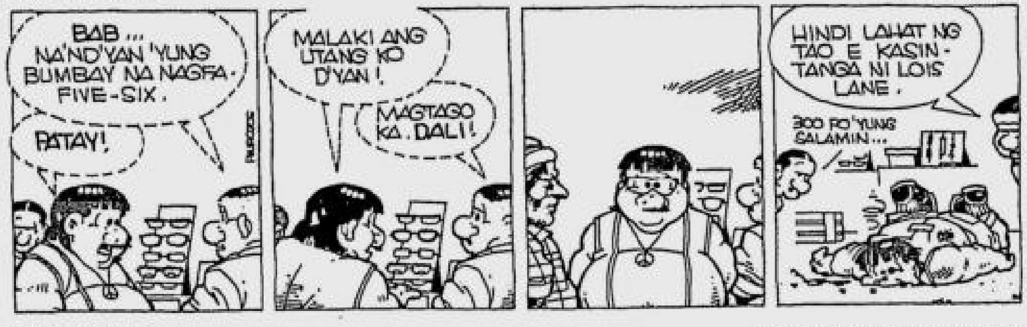
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


EWWWW! SOMEBODY BARFED IN THE KITCHEN!
WHAT??
WHERE?
IN A PAN!
ON THE STOVE!
THAT'S NOT BARF! IT'S STROGANOFF!
EWWW! EVEN WORSE!

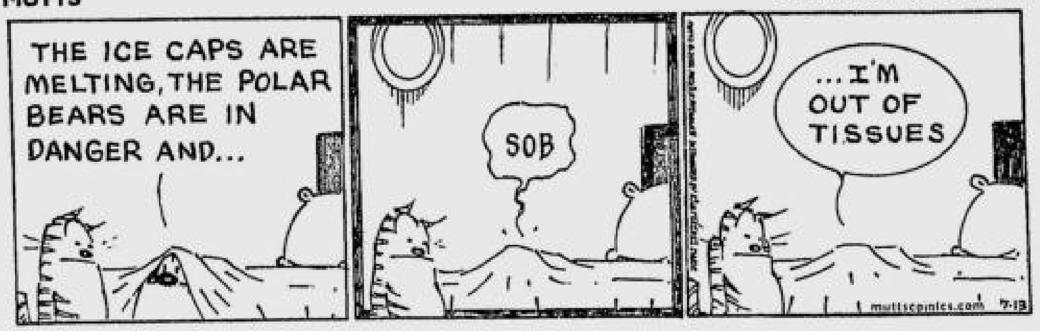
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BAB... NA'ND'YAN 'YUNG BUMBAY NA NAGFA-FIVE-SIX.
PATAY!
MALAKI ANG UTANG KO D'YAN!
MAGTAGO KA. DALI!
HINDI LAHAT NG TAO E KASIN-TANGA NI LOIS LANE.
300 PO 'YUNG SALAMIN...

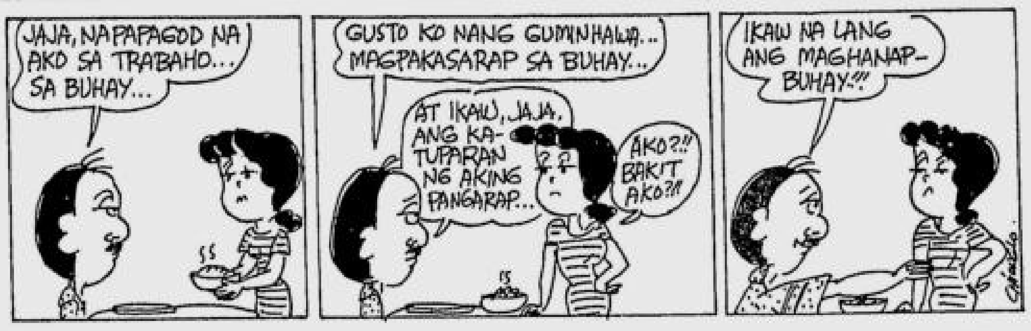
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THE ICE CAPS ARE MELTING, THE POLAR BEARS ARE IN DANGER AND...
SOB
...I'M OUT OF TISSUES
muttscomics.com 7-13

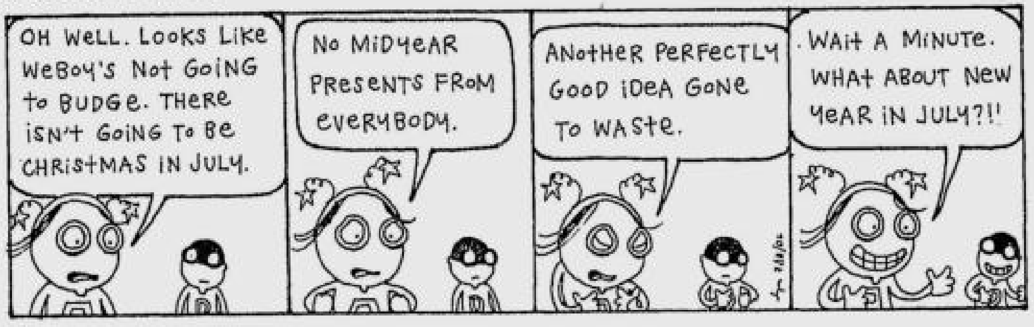
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, NAPAPAGOD NA AKO SA TRABAHO... SA BUHAY...
GUSTO KO NANG GUMINHAWA... MAGPAKASARAP SA BUHAY...
AT IKAW, JAJA, ANG KATUPARAN NG AKING PANGARAP...
AKO?!! BAKIT AKO?!!
IKAW NA LANG ANG MAGHANAP-BUHAY!!!

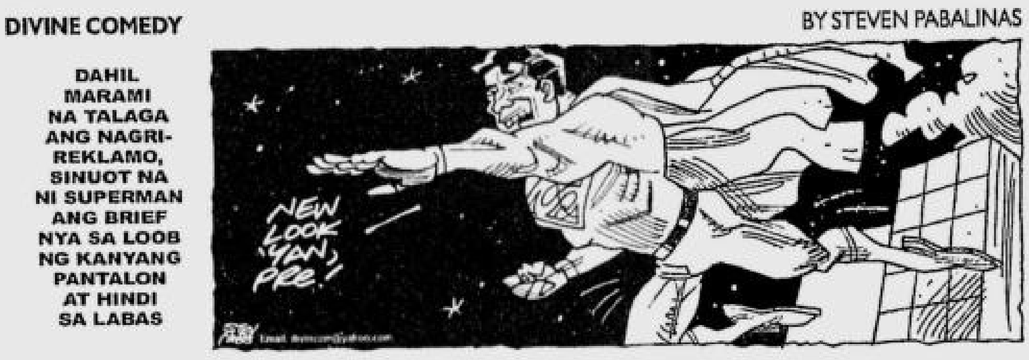
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OH WELL. LOOKS LIKE WEBOY'S NOT GOING TO BUDGE. THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE CHRISTMAS IN JULY.
NO MIDYEAR PRESENTS FROM EVERYBODY.
ANOTHER PERFECTLY GOOD IDEA GONE TO WASTE.
WAIT A MINUTE. WHAT ABOUT NEW YEAR IN JULY?!!

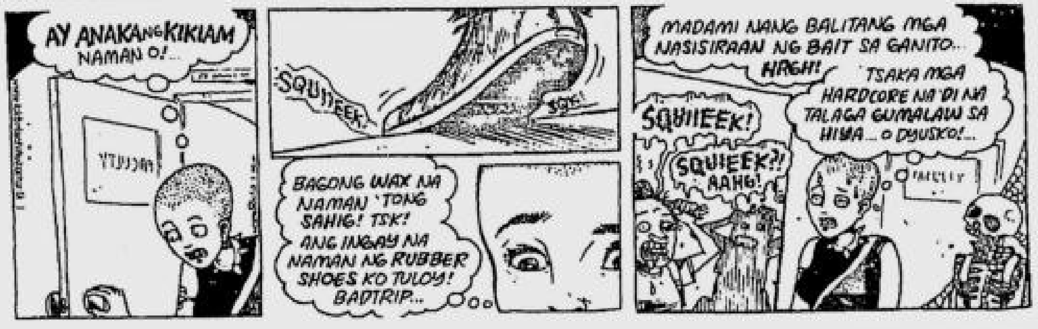
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


DAHIL MARAMI NA TALAGA ANG NAGRI-REKLAMO, SINUOT NA NI SUPERMAN ANG BRIEF NYA SA LOOB NG KANYANG PANTALON AT HINDI SA LABAS
NEW LOOK 'YAN, PRE!

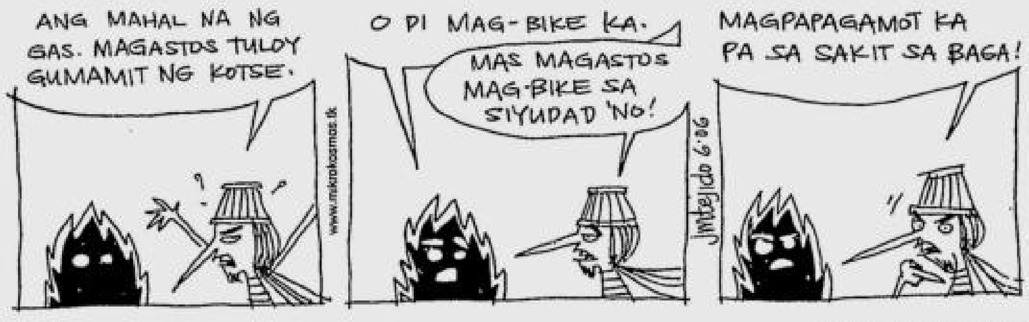
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AY ANAKANG KIKIAM NAMAN O!...
SQUIIEEK
SQEK!
BAGONG WAX NA NAMAN 'TONG SAHIG! TSK! ANG INGAY NA NAMAN NG RUBBER SHOES KO TULOY! BADTRIP...
MADAMI NANG BALITANG MGA NASISIRAAN NG BAIT SA GANITO.. HRGH!
TSAKA MGA HARDCORE NA 'DI NA TALAGA GUMALAW SA HIYA... O DYUSKO!...
SQUIIEEK!
SQUIEEK?! AAHG!

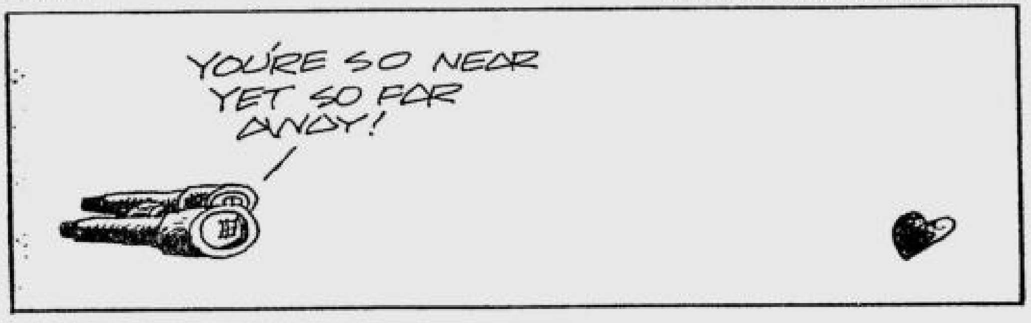
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG MAHAL NA NG GAS. MAGASTOS TULOY GUMAMIT NG KOTSE.
O PI MAG-BIKE KA.
MAS MAGASTOS MAG-BIKE SA SIYUDAD 'NO!
MAGPAPAGAMOT KA PA SA SAKIT SA BAGA!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
Jmtejido 6·06

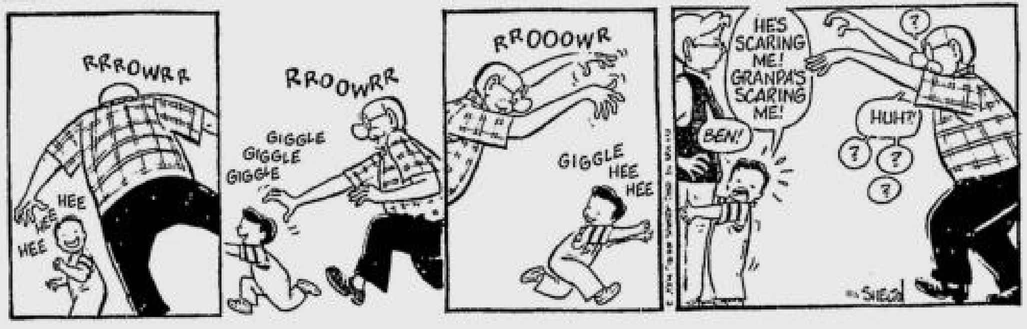
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


YOU'RE SO NEAR YET SO FAR ANDY!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


RRROWRR
HEE HEE HEE
RROOWRR
GIGGLE GIGGLE GIGGLE
RROOOWR
GIGGLE HEE HEE
HES SCARING ME! GRANPA'S SCARING ME!
BEN!
HUH?
? ? ? ?

DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11	12	13
14				■	15				■	16				
17				■	18				■	19				
20				21					22					
23						■	■	24			■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	25		26	27	■	28		29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	■	37			38	■	39				
40				41					42					
43					■	44				■	45			
46					47	■	48			49	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	50		51	■	■	52		53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60				61	62						
63					■	64				■	65			
66					■	67				■	68			
69					■	70				■	71			

By Roger Coburn
Summerville, GA

7/13/06

ACROSS

1 Lower California
5 Play's players
9 Large-scale
14 Alda or Ladd
15 Big pot of stew
16 TV's Steverino
17 Dance partner?
18 Jet-set jet
19 Kirkpatrick of the U.N.
20 Start of a quip
23 Lent end
24 Call for help
25 Shopping center
28 Work shifts
33 Temple team
37 Consider
39 Ancient Peruvians
40 Part 2 of quip
43 Barker's customer
44 Pol source
45 Scarfs down
46 Coil
48 Decisive defeat
50 Deface
52 Swaps
57 End of quip
63 Deserve
64 Fabled loser
65 "Zip-__-Doo-Dah"
66 African antelope
67 Teen follower?
68 Philly's mom
69 Ins and outs
70 Deck officer
71 Aide to an exec.

DOWN

1 Sew loosely
2 Hilo hi-ya
3 Austen and Seymour
4 Gut-wrenching feeling
5 River or state
6 Out of the wind
7 Close noisily
8 "__ Bulba"
9 Commanding
10 Yankee or Oriole, briefly
11 Hammer part
12 Actress Sofer
13 Change for a fin
21 Cloth border
22 Boxing wins, briefly
26 Remaining
27 "The Merry Widow" composer
29 Pertaining to
30 Inter-campus sports org.
31 William Howard or Robert
32 Fast fliers' letters
33 Makes a decision
34 Present packaging
35 Norse god of discord
36 One pressing a suit?
38 Spanish painter Joan
41 __ personae (cast)
42 Part of SMU
47 W.C.
49 Corn or pod opener?
51 Post-op regimen
53 Honshu volcano
54 Nursery pops
55 Water jugs
56 Frozen rain
57 Cupid
58 Stout's Wolf
59 Plumbing problem
60 Cheap shot
61 Villain of Venice
62 Very French?

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	C	E	S	■	M	A	T	E	D	■	Z	O	L	A
L	A	N	A	■	E	S	A	L	E	■	E	M	I	R
E	B	A	N	■	S	T	R	U	M	■	S	A	L	T
C	I	T	R	U	S	I	N	D	U	S	T	R	Y	■
K	N	E	E	L	■	■	S	E	R	I	F	■	■	■
■	■	■	M	A	S	I	■	■	S	T	U	P	O	R
L	E	M	O	N	L	A	W	S	■	S	L	A	V	E
E	T	E	■	■	O	C	A	L	A	■	■	P	I	N
E	R	I	C	A	■	O	R	A	N	G	E	A	D	E
R	E	N	A	M	E	■	■	M	O	O	R	■	■	■
■	■	■	R	A	M	P	S	■	■	A	M	A	S	S
■	I	N	T	H	E	L	I	M	E	L	I	G	H	T
A	L	E	E	■	N	A	T	E	S	■	N	A	I	R
R	I	A	L	■	D	I	K	E	S	■	E	T	N	A
M	E	T	S	■	S	T	A	K	E	■	S	E	E	D

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7/13/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're daring. You take risks to get what you want. You know how to take advantage of opportunities, and you're prepared to start at the bottom to work toward the top. You have stick-to-itiveness and staying power. A strong Leo influence from around age 10 made you more dramatic for the next 30 years. This year is full of fresh possibilities. Open any door!

Birthdate of: Cheech Marin, actor; Erno Rubik, inventor; Harrison Ford, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're bold about going after what you want in terms of romantic attraction. You feel confident you can script things to go the way you want. (And you probably can.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a good time to make major renovations and repairs to where you live. Get rid of appliances and things you longer need. Fix up what you want to keep.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're extremely convincing and persuasive today. Nobody will be able to resist your arguments or proposals. Go after whatever you want!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might spend money to salvage something today, or perhaps you see a new use for an old item. You're determined to make the best of something or to improve something.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): At this time, physical exercise can literally transform your body. Even a minimal amount of output will get excellent results. (Try it!)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Behind-the-scenes efforts to get work done or work on a secret project will go very well. You're willing to look under every stone to find what you're seeking.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is an excellent day to formulate long-term objectives about how you want to improve your life and your future in general. After all, everything begins with the intention to make it so.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your ambition is aroused now. Not only that, you have the energy to keep up a sustained effort at whatever you're doing for a long time. This is good

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might work with others to create improvements to foreign countries or other cultures. You might also improve matters in publishing and the media.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): The resources of others will come to you today if you can figure out how to use them to benefit others as well as yourself. Keep in mind the greater needs of the group.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You have an opportunity today to clear the air by putting your cards on the table. Let partners and close friends know exactly where you stand.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Trust your ideas about how to make improvements at work. You want to introduce reform to your daily routine. This is good.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

3	2	7				9		1
				9				8
5								2
			3		8			
	1						8	
			7		2			
8								3
4				5				
1		3				5	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

7/13

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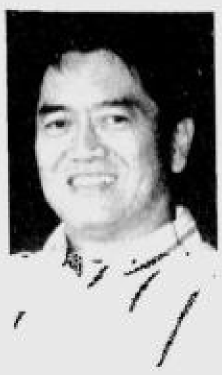
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	8	5	2	4	3	6	9	1
2	6	3	5	1	9	4	7	8
4	1	9	8	7	6	3	5	2
5	7	6	3	2	1	8	4	9
3	2	1	9	8	4	7	6	5
8	9	4	6	5	7	2	1	3
1	5	2	4	6	8	9	3	7
9	4	7	1	3	2	5	8	6
6	3	8	7	9	5	1	2	4

Difficulty Level ★★★



DE LEON RYAN LIM

Swanie joins Pidol

From page A2-1

when Susan's name cropped up, we all got excited. Indeed, why not aim for the moon?"

ABS-CBN and KB then initiated talks with Susan, through her representative Dolor Guevarra.

"The first thing she asked for was the script," De Leon said. "That time, we didn't have one ready, so I sent my sequence treatment." A few days later, Susan sent word that she was interested. "This all happened in a matter of days," said De Leon.

Questions

"She liked the role," Guevarra confirmed with INQUIRER.

Then, Susan asked for a formal meeting with De Leon and company. "We had dinner with her," he recalled. "She asked many questions."

He said he assured Susan—Swanie in show biz circles—that Encarnacion was not an updated version of John's meddlesome mother-in-law, Doña Delilah, immortalized by comic Dely Atay-Atayan.

"I explained to her that her character is offbeat—something to look forward to," De Leon said.

"Champoy" graduate Noel Trinidad is cast as Swanie's husband; Vandolph, as Dolphy's youngest son Atong.

Was it a rumored hefty talent fee then that convinced the 1960s movie queen?

De Leon was noncommittal. "I'm involved only in the creative aspect."

Reunion

Guevarra, when asked, laughed heartily and said, "I don't know ... Susan said she's looking forward to working with Dolphy again. One of her first big movies, 'Boksingera Daw' (1956) also starred Dolphy."

De Leon revealed that, for him, working with the Comedy King is a dream come true.

Dolphy's old sitcom, "Home Along da Riles" on ABS-CBN had run directly against the Vic Sotto show directed by De Leon, "Daddy Di Do Du," on GMA 7.

Does this mean that "John En Shirley" will go head-to-head with "Daddy"?

De Leon clarified: "I purposefully requested that we avoid that. I'm not affiliated with any network. It's just that my two shows ("Eat Bulaga" and "Daddy") are now aired by GMA 7. In the past, I did 'Eat' (on GMA 7) at the same time as 'The Sharon Cuneta Show' (on ABS-CBN). As a freelancer, I can always go network-hopping."

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JOHNNY DEPP
ORLANDO BLOOM
KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN

PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST

Walt Disney Pictures, in association with Jerry Bruckheimer Films, reunite Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley in another tale of further misadventures of Capt. Jack Sparrow in PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST. Captain Jack Sparrow discovers that he has a blood debt to Captain Davey Jones of the ghostly Flying Dutchman. As time runs out, Jack finds a way to get out of his debt or he'll be doomed to eternal servitude in the afterlife.

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I WANNA BE HAPPY

THE PODIUM
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PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
CINEMA 2
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

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SUPERMAN RETURNS
INITIAL D
LOVEWRECKED
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
I WANNA BE HAPPY
BATAS MILITAR
SUPERMAN RETURNS
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I WANNA BE HAPPY
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS

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SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
INITIAL D
THE NUN
I WANNA BE HAPPY
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
LOVEWRECKED
BATAS MILITAR

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
LOVEWRECKED
INITIAL D
BATAS MILITAR
I WANNA BE HAPPY
THE NUN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
INITIAL D
LAKE HOUSE
SCARY MOVIE 4
SUPERMAN RETURNS
I WANNA BE HAPPY
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
LOVEWRECKED
FAST AND FURIOUS
THE NUN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
BATAS MILITAR

SM CITY DASMARINAS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
BATAS MILITAR
I WANNA BE HAPPY
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY STA. MESA
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
I WANNA BE HAPPY
LOVEWRECKED
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
BATAS MILITAR
INITIAL D
THE NUN

SM CITY MANILA
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
THE NUN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
LOVEWRECKED
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
BATAS MILITAR
LAKE HOUSE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
SCARY MOVIE 4
INITIAL D
I WANNA BE HAPPY

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
BATAS MILITAR
LOVEWRECKED
I WANNA BE HAPPY

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
INITIAL D
I WANNA BE HAPPY

SM CITY SUCAT
I WANNA BE HAPPY
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
BATAS MILITAR

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SM CITY MARILAO
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
I WANNA BE HAPPY
FAST AND FURIOUS
SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY BACOOR
BATAS MILITAR
THE NUN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
INITIAL D
SUPERMAN RETURNS
LOVEWRECKED
THE NUN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

LUZON

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SUPERMAN RETURNS
I WANNA BE HAPPY
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SM CITY LUCENA
SUPERMAN RETURNS
FAST AND FURIOUS
AQUAMARINE
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY CLARK
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
BATAS MILITAR
I WANNA BE HAPPY
SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
BATAS MILITAR
SUPERMAN RETURNS
I WANNA BE HAPPY

SM CITY MOLINO
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
BATAS MILITAR

SM CITY STA. ROSA
BATAS MILITAR
I WANNA BE HAPPY
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY CEBU
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
THE NUN
TAKE THE LEAD
I WANNA BE HAPPY
BATAS MILITAR
CHAOS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO
LAKE HOUSE
RESERVED
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
FAST AND FURIOUS
SUPERMAN RETURN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
RESERVED
THE NUN

SM CITY DAVAO
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
THE NUN
I WANNA BE HAPPY
FAST AND FURIOUS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURN

SM CITY CAGAYAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURN
FAST AND FURIOUS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

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GALLERIA 632-9116
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS • THX
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 LOVE WRECKED
4 INITIAL D
5 BE HAPPY
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
7 BATAS MILITAR
8 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
9 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
10 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 BE HAPPY
3 INITIAL D
4 BATAS MILITAR
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 INITIAL D
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
4 BATAS MILITAR
5 LOVE WRECKED
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
7 BE HAPPY
8 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 BATAS MILITAR
4 BE HAPPY
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
6 INITIAL D

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 BE HAPPY
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

CHECK THIS OUT ►►►►

PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN
DEAD MAN'S CHEST
2006

NOW SHOWING
at all Robinsons Movieworld Branches
MTRCB Rating: G
All Ages Admitted
Caution: The film contains some scary scenes

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2 SEE NO EVIL
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 BE HAPPY

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2 BE HAPPY
3 LAKE HOUSE
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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3 BATAS MILITAR
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4 BATAS MILITAR

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6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

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Creative casting enhances 'Happy' film's prospects

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

JOEY REYES' "I WANNA BE HAPPY" HAS several good things going for it, not the least of which is creative casting. In fact, the production is a good example for how canny casting can enhance a movie's appeal to viewers.

As we see it, the film is "family-friendly" because its "trans-generational" casting makes it easier for different age groups to relate to it.

While the movie is about the breakup of the 50-year-old marriage of the characters played by **Gloria Romero** and **Eddie Garcia**, younger viewers can also empathize with its plot and characters because it includes the effect of the central conflict on the couple's children and grandchildren.

The couple's offspring are played by **Cherry Pie Picache, Joey Marquez** and **Diana Zubiri.** They turn out to be an engagingly varied trio, with Cherry Pie taking care of the dramatics, Joey adding spice, and Diana throwing in a little sizzle for good measure.

Playing Cherry Pie and Diana's respective partners are **Christian Vasquez** and **Alfred Vargas**. The grandchildren are portrayed by **Terence Baylon, Jason Abalos, Dion Ignacio, Alvin Uytingco** and **Michelle Madrigal.**

For added comedic zing, **Lou Veloso** plays Eddie's randy friend, **Keanna Reeves** comes on sexy and kooky as the GRO who shares Eddie's bed for a while, and **Marissa Delgado** elicits more laughs as Gloria's bosom buddy.

This infusion of comedic performers energizes the production in a special way, and accounts for most of the belly laughs that its lighthearted scenes generates.

Eddie and Gloria aren't slackers in the comedy department, either, and they work well with the movie's supporting comedians to generate some more over-the-top moments that provide a deft counterpoint to the serious scenes.

In this regard, Joey, Keanna and Marissa come on strongest. It's interesting to note the variety in their acting styles: Joey plays it grouchy and long-suffering, Marissa is an all-out kook, while Keanna banks on "accidental," *mali-mali* humor.

Which is not to say that the movie doesn't have its less giddy and more substantial moments—but, after all is said and done, it's the movie's "Happy" factor that holds sway.

The film's more mature actors come on so strongly that the starlets playing the grandchildren turn in relatively skittish and colorless performances.

But they still serve a purpose, because they expand the repercussions of the central conflict, and could interest younger viewers in watching this film about life, love, marriage and fidelity.

Feedback

From **Paul R. Mortel** of Marikina City: "I accept your challenge to speak up as a viewer whose voice should be heard by the TV people concerned. After all, viewers like me are the reasons for the TV networks' existence.

"I agree with another one of your readers who complained that there is too much overloading of commercials in top-rating TV programs today.

"If you are *matiyaga*, you can count from 11 to 14 commercials being aired per commercial gap, exclusive of program plugs. *(To be concluded)*

FEEDBACK

Negligent producer

From Richard Merk (merkmediainc@gmail.com):

Thank you for your review of the Manhattan Transfer concert review and for publishing my photograph as front-act artist. I'd like to clarify your comments regarding the uneven sound quality during the show.

It is unfortunate that while the sound was perfect during the Manhattan Transfer's portion, the producers did not ensure that Toti Fuentes and myself would get the same sound quality during ours. This practice should be rectified for the sake of local artists who will open foreign acts in the future.

Also, during my last song, a female voice kept interrupting—obviously a systems failure, but the blame was put on cellular phone users in the audience.

It was clearly negligence on the part of the technician on board and the production team, and not the [fault] of the Big Dome management. I have relayed this sentiment to the producers, who should take responsibility.

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4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 I WANNA BE HAPPY

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3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
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THEATRES
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3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
7 INITIAL - D
8 I WANNA BE HAPPY
9 SUPERMAN RETURNS
10 BATAS MILITAR

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niña, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 RESERVED
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
4 INITIAL - D

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tel 7334228
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
5 BATAS MILITAR

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2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 RESERVED

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2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 BATAS MILITAR

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4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
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4 RESERVED

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2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SEE NO EVIL

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2 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 SEE NO EVIL
2 LAKE HOUSE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
2 HIRAM NA KATAWAN
3 BALAT SIBUYAS
4 SEE NO EVIL

Lianas MovieCity
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1 SEE NO EVIL
2 MOLATA
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 I WANNA BE HAPPY
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2

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1 LAKE HOUSE
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
MTRCB GP
1 40, 4 50, 8 00

2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
MTRCB GP
2 40 5 50 9 00

3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
MTRCB GP
12 45, 3.50, 6.55, 10.00

4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
MTRCB GP
12 40, 3 50, 7 00, 10 10

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8:30 GP

CINEMA 4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
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7:55 , 10:50 GP

CINEMA 5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
10:30 , 1:25 , 4:20
7:15 , 10:10 GP

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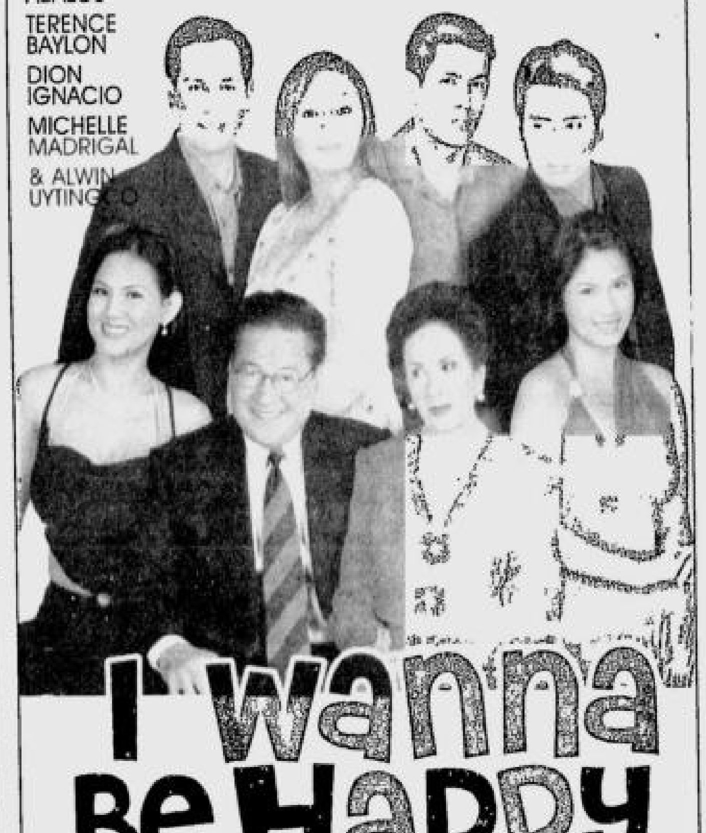
KEANNA REEVES as Cristy and JOEY MARQUEZ

In alphabetical order
JASON ABALOS
TERENCE BAYLON
DION IGNACIO
MICHELLE MADRIGAL
& ALWIN UYTINGCO



I wanna Be Happy

You can choose your friends
but not your relatives

written and directed by
JOSE JAVIER REYES
a SEIKO Films Presentation

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SUPERMAN RETURNS G 12:45,3:50,6:55,10:00	SUPERMAN RETURNS G 2:20,5:25,8:30	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 G 1:30,4:30,7:30,10:30

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
12:50, 4:20, 7:45, 11:00
G

2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
1:40, 8:15, 11:30
G

3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
11:30, 2:45, 9:30
G

4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:50, 4:20, 7:45, 11:10
G

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BATAS MILITAR
12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:15

SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:30 / 3:30 / 6:30 / 9:30

THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3
12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00

THE LAKE HOUSE
7:20 / 9:30

LOVE WRECKED
2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
12:35 / 1:10 / 3:35 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 7:10 / 9:35 / 10:10

Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN:
12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00

AliMALL 5

I WANNA BE HAPPY
12:10 R3 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50

BATAS MILITAR
12:05 R2 / 2:00 / 4:15 / 6:30 / 8:45

SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:20 / 3:10 / 6:00 / 8:50

SEE NO EVIL
1:10 / 3:00 / 4:50 / 6:40 / 8:30

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN:
12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00

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Talk about comments that make jaws drop

DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE, Bert de Leon, who will direct ABS-CBN's forthcoming comedy series "John En Shirley," had one thing to say about rival station GMA 7's top variety show, which he is also currently directing: "Nothing can beat 'Eat Bulaga.'"

Kapamilya execs' jaws dropped.

We say: De Leon has earned his stripes; he can say whatever he wants.

OUR vote for Best Male Performer in a Female Role on GMA 7's "Fantastic 56" anniversary show on Sunday goes to Kempee de Leon. RODEL ROTONI

Not old

Are we saying he's old? Of course not.

In the words of a stunned Sharon Cuneta: "Direk, *may sa-demonyo ka yata* (have you signed a pact with the devil)? You look so young!"

RUSHES

Bert is 59.

Sige, 'Day

Marissa Flores—GMA 7's senior VP for News & Public Affairs—recounts an exchange with Annabelle Rama, who was upset about the station's reporting on her [Rama's] family's tax problems:

"I said I understood how she felt, but I also asked her to understand where we were coming from as journalists."

Rama's reply, according to Flores, was short, sweet and swift: "Sige, 'Day."

Okay, Pidol?

Zsazsa Padilla on her Zsa Zsa Zaturnnah costume: "It's so '80s, so Madonna. *Tanga* (rhymes with *mangga) kung tanga*!"

How does Pidol feel about this?

ZZ's unblinking retort: "*May* billboard *ako sa* Edsa, *'no?*"

Ligaya's next project

Ligaya Salonga says her next "project" is to see that her little grandchild Nic—Lea's firstborn—gets her first years of schooling in the Philippines. The first was to have her delivered here, then christened here (last Sunday). Even just a few years of basic Catholic education would complete a solid character foundation, as far as this *lola* is concerned.

WHO IS Robert Chien taking snapshots of? Find out on Friday, in Stars Living. RYAN LIM

Jolie's next

Speaking of projects (and character-building), Angelina Jolie's next a co-starring role as a tiger in the upcoming kiddie movie "Kung fu Panda."

Quoting DreamWorks, Reuters reports that the actress, who just gave birth to her love child with actor Brad Pitt, will supply the voice of Tigress, a martial-arts master who helps train the title character, Po the Panda, played by Jack Black, in the ways of kung fu. The animated comedy hits theaters in May 2008.

ANGELINA Jolie AP

Can't wait

MILAN, Italy—Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards said Monday he has recovered completely from a head injury suffered in a fall.

"I can't wait to get back on the stage," Richards, 62, said in his first comments since he fell from a tree April 27 while vacationing in Fiji, forcing the band to postpone a European tour.

Richards also confirmed his role in the third installment of the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series, saying he'd be filming for a week or so in September. Richards is to have a cameo role as the father of the flamboyant Captain Jack Sparrow, played by Johnny Depp.

"Now I know why (Depp) paid for all those lunches," Richards deadpanned. AP

KEITH Richards REUTERS

Gay-porn past

SANTA MONICA, California—In November 2001, Michael Jackson was oblivious to the fact that the man he hired to produce a charity recording to benefit victims of the Sept. 11 terror attacks had been a producer of gay pornographic movies, the singer's former lawyer testified.

Zia Modabber said he broke the news to Jackson about F. Marc Schaffel's background and met with the pop star in the middle of the night to show him a video of Schaffel directing a gay porn scene.

Schaffel claims the pop star still owes him $1.6 million. AP

MICHAEL Jackson

'Pirates' still fun but it's too long

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

"PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Man's Chest," like its blockbuster predecessor "Curse of the Black Pearl," is generally entertaining, but it's too long.

We see extra-lengthy combat sequences and prolonged jokes that tend to meander and fill gaps between big but hasty character moments. But that pretty much sums up the first movie, too, which, except for Johnny Depp's brilliant swishy pirate Jack Sparrow, is a by-the-numbers popcorn flick.

Self-contained

There's a general feeling of fun, undeniably, but the intoxication later proves fleeting, as one would be hard pressed to remember the details of the first film's key moments, epiphanies and so on.

This sequel doesn't really give a lengthy recap of the past, but it's self-contained enough to be understood by those who missed the first movie. The three characters—Jack, Elizabeth (Keira Knightley), and Will (Orlando Bloom)—are reunited in a series of sea-faring adventures that seem to beget more mini sea quests and endless troubles. In this installment, opposition comes in the form of monster-pirates led by the octopus-faced Davy Jones (Bill Nighy) and his giant "weapon," the Kraken. Will, conveniently, discovers his long-lost dad (Stellan Skarsgard) among Jones' cursed crew mates. Elizabeth, meanwhile, does pretty standard action heroine stuff, but becomes integral to Jack's transformation from amoral adventurer to hero later on.

"Dead Man's Chest" is once again directed by Gore Verbinski, who, despite his apparent liking for decompression, does okay in cramming everything in. It gets a little exhausting, eventually, as non-stop shifts from one crazy locale to another muddle the characters' objectives from time to time. We don't really care anymore where they're going and what they're looking for at some point, but we don't get seasick because of trusty ol' Jack Sparrow. Depp as Jack hasn't gotten old yet, and the ride is made bearable, thanks to his adeptness in physical humor and extreme facial expressions. We're constantly reminded that this is practically his playground.

While we see more of the same as far as the summer extravaganza formula is concerned, a welcome change is the range of special effects. The Kraken creature here is closer to established mythology than the amphibious beast of the same name in "Clash of the Titans," in that it has giant tentacles that can easily crumple proud battleships. Just as impressive are Nighy's similarly realistic monster face and those of his marine-themed flunkies. The costumes and prosthetics impressively merge sea elements like corals, shells, crustaceans and fish parts with the ensorcelled humans that sail the Flying Dutchman ship.

Unsinkable

The "Pirates" franchise looks unsinkable at this point, as this second part massively sets up the third movie, "At World's End," slated for a 2007 release. Yes, "Dead Man's Chest" ends in a nice cliffhanger that climaxes in the seeming demise of one of the pirates who, fingers crossed, will be resurrected in grand fashion in the next movie. Oh, there's a short scene after the end credits that isn't that important as, say, the one after the "X-Men 3" credits, but it's just pointlessly cute. How apt—the "Pirates" movies are supposed to be light and refreshingly silly. They're just too long.

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G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	3 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST GUARANTEED SEATS	
		4 INITIAL D	5 UNITED 93	6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	7 LOVEWRECKED
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST		
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST GUARANTEED SEATS		
		3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST GUARANTEED SEATS	5 LOVEWRECKED GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST		
		3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 LOVEWRECKED	5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 SEE NO EVIL
M2	MARKET! MARKET!	1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 I WANNA BE HAPPY		
		3 INITIAL D	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	

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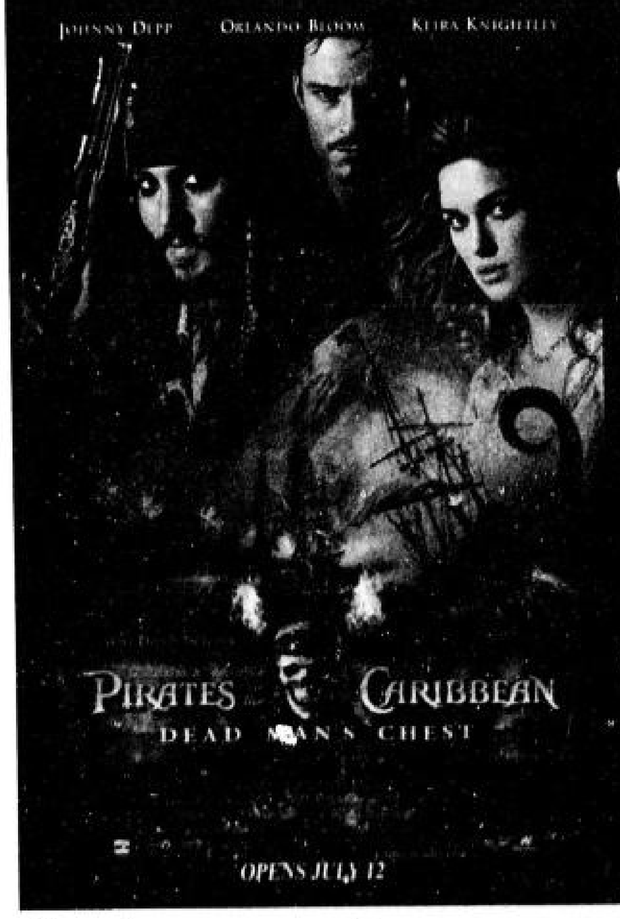

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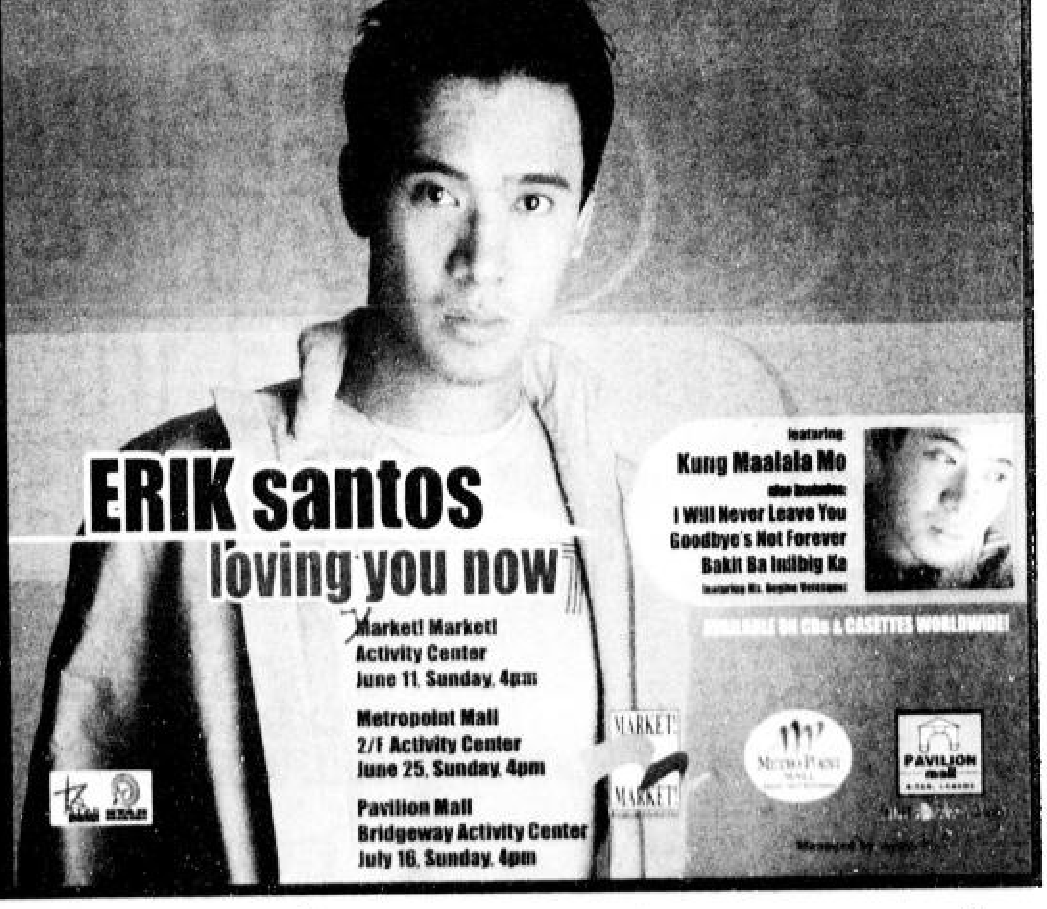

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Till eternity, till maternity?

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Ann Carvajal

MARK HERRAS AND JENNYLYN MERCADO rekindle their "eternal love" in Regal Entertainment's "Eternity." Even if they have split up as lovers, their special bond is timeless.

"No matter where life takes me, Jen will always have a special place in my heart," Mark says.

Will it be from here to eternity or from here to maternity for the restless playboy? What kind of girl will "tame" him? "A girl who's exactly like me," he replies.

On-screen chemistry

Also featured in "Eternity" is the love team of **Iza Calzado** and **Dingdong Dantes**. They would have made a beautiful couple off-screen.

"Our love team works; why ruin it by getting entangled?" asks Iza, who's happy with her US-based boyfriend. "The long distance setup is tough," she says, "but it makes us value each other more."

Payback time

Mark Lapid says he put up his own MTL Films, whose initial offering is "Batas Militar," to give something back to show biz. Says the dashing governor, "Show biz put food on our table and sent us to good schools. I'm returning the favor."

Mark never dreamt of being a man in uniform. "I was a seminarian for three years," he reveals. Now he's one of the country's most eligible bachelors. However, he says his love life has been nil since his failed romance with **Kris Aquino**.

"It's useless to force something that wasn't meant to be," Mark says.

He has a cool relationship with his dad, he insists. "*Hindi siya ang parating nasusunod.* He also listens to what I have to say. *Walang batas militar sa bahay namin* (laughs)!"

Dismissed

Got a text from my *amiga* **Alana Lopez-Montelibano**: "Our criminal case of physical injuries against Aiko Melendez have been filed in court. All her cases against me and **Happy Ongpauco** have been dismissed."

Comic tandem

Catch **Janno Gibbs** and **Gladys Guevarra** in "Chuchay loves Chuperman" at Zirkoh Greenhills tomorrow. Will Glady's be able to resist Janno's deadly charms?

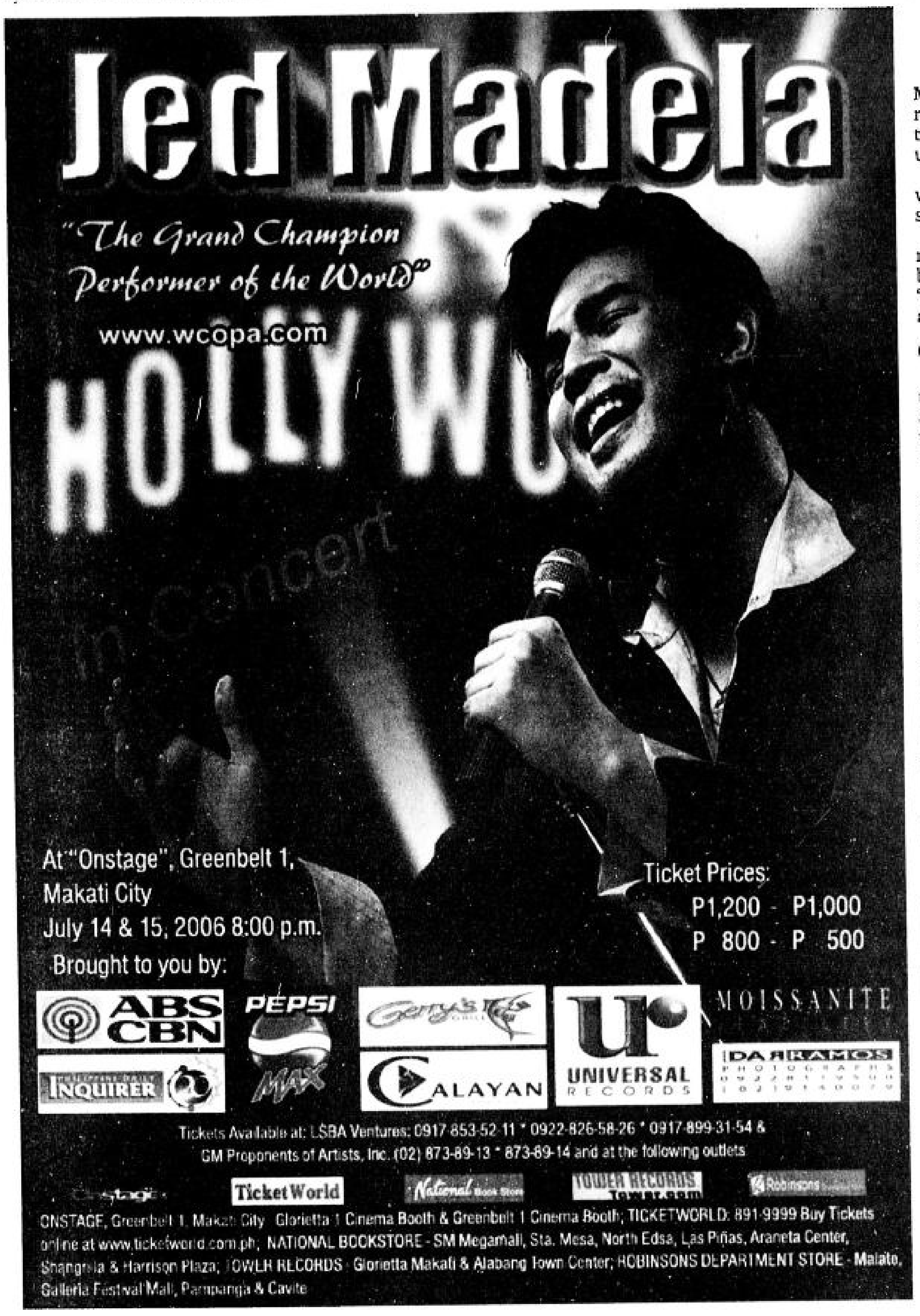
Hilarious

I thoroughly enjoyed Seiko Films' "I Wanna Be Happy." **Eddie Garcia** and **Gloria Romero** reminded me of **Jack Nicholson** and **Meryll Streep** with their impeccable acting.

Flimsy excuses

Somebody close to **Jeremy Marquez** called me up about an item on Jennylyn Mercado in my previous column. "Why is she denying that she keeps texting Jeremy? All her flimsy excuses only prove that she's hiding something."

(E-Mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com)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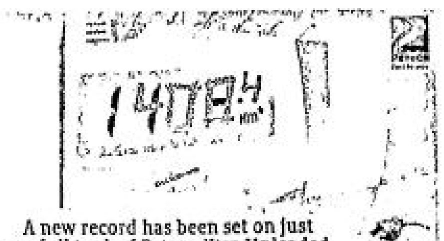
A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

US firm Mirant to sell RP unit

ONLINE BROKER CitisecOnline.com listed its shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday. From an offer price of P1.36 a share, it rose 23.5 percent to close at P1.68. At the ceremonial ringing of the bell to start the day's trading at the Tektite trading floor are (from left): CitisecOnline president Conrado Bate and chair Edward K. Lee, PSE president Francis Lim, SEC Commissioner Ma. Juanita Cueto and CitisecOnline vice chair Alexander Yu. *(See story on Page B4.)*

Policy banning port monopoly reviewed; ICTSI eyes N. Harbor

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE COUNTRY'S PREMIERE SEAPORT FOR international and domestic shipping may soon be managed by a single firm after ports regulators announced a major review of a policy meant to prevent a port monopoly.

If current trends continue, both the Manila North and South Harbors may end up being operated by International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI), the country's largest private port operator.

In a briefing the other day, Philippine Ports Authority general manager Oscar M. Sevilla disclosed that his agency submitted last week its recommendation to the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) that the policy against a single terminal operator be lifted.

He said the business environment that prompted regulators to put in place anti-monopoly rules no longer existed today.

"Actually the reasons that existed before, like why the single operator was not tenable at that time, was because there was no competition," he said. "Today, we have that [competition] already."

He said the operations of Pier 15 were in direct competition with the operations of the North Harbor, which is dedicated to domestic passen-

PPA/ B4

Value of power facilities placed at $3B

By Abigail L. Ho and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ATLANTA-BASED MIRANT CORP. HAS DECIDED to sell its Philippine subsidiary Mirant Philippines Corp., the country's biggest and highly profitable independent power producer.

The American power firm will also be selling its Carribean business unit as part of plans to focus on its home business as well as to enhance shareholder value following its emergence from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection just last January.

"The planned sales will result in these businesses being reported as 'discontinued operations' beginning in the third quarter of 2006. The sales are expected to close by mid-2007," the company said in a statement.

"As Mirant generates cash from these sales, it plans to continue returning cash to its shareholders while maximizing the value of its net operating loss carryforwards," it added.

Mirant Philippines owns and operates the 1,200-megawatt (MW) Sual and the 735-MW Pagbilao coal-fired power plants in Pangasinan and Quezon, respectively.

It also holds a 20-percent stake in the 1,200-MW Ilijan gas-fired power plant in Batangas.

Its net ownership interest in those three generating facilities come up to 2,203 MW.

A sale of Mirant's plants in the Philippines—which accounts for nearly half of Mirant's overall cash flow—would be the last major auction of power assets by a US utility in the region.

The Philippine asset, estimated by some with an enterprise value of nearly $3 billion, is set to generate strong investor interest because of the lucrative long-term power purchase agreements it holds, banking sources said.

Even before Mirant made its decision on the sale, investment banks have started touting the

MIRANT/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE

Online broker's share price up sharply on listing day /B4

DTI slaps duty on detergent ingredient /B6

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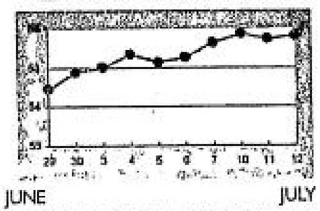

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As of 5 p.m., July 11, 2006

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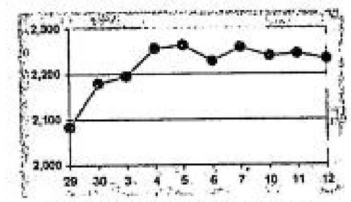
per ounce Hong Kong, July 12, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks end lower

SHARES FELL YESTERDAY AS INVESTORS took profits after the market's recent gains. Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. led the decline.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 11.54 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,231.68, after rising 0.2 percent Tuesday.

"Coming from a low of 2,049.95 on June 28, we're now up by close to 9 percent. So given that, the market was bound to consoli-

STOCKS/ B4

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Foreign investors seen focusing on economic gains

By Doris C. Dumlao

OFFSHORE INVESTORS ARE starting to focus on the country's economic gains while shrugging off sporadic political noises, the country's investor relations officer said.

Renato Pizarro, executive director for investor relations at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, said investors who were distracted by recurring politicking in the country were taking a closer look at the country's bright potentials.

"They know that the country's sound macroeconomic fundamentals haven't changed despite high oil prices and global interest rate uncertainties. They are starting to delink political noise from good fundamentals," he said in an interview.

From year to date, the peso has swung back to being a net gainer against the dollar on expectations that the US Federal Reserve's two-year monetary tightening cycle would soon end.

Pizarro said it would be crucial for the government's fiscal managers to sustain recent progress in view of the challenges brought out by the coming election year.

If the government were to meet the P125-billion budget deficit cap, he said that would be a factor that could prompt global rating agencies to raise their credit-rating outlook on the country.

"There are other factors like the elections next year and they will see as to what extent that will affect the fiscal momentum," Pizarro said.

The best route would be for the government to be able to follow up fiscal gains with further reforms such as the fiscal incentives rationalization program and the SNITS, he said.

"If all those work, that will be favorable to the fiscal momentum and that could offset some of the risks associated with an election year," Pizarro said.

He said the market was closely watching whether the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the government's main revenue collection agency, could deliver on its targets.

"You need another six months of favorable fiscal performance," he said.

A team from US-based Moody's Investor Service is set to visit the Philippine this December and that from London-based Fitch Ratings, in January or February.

An International Monetary Fund team has urged the Philippines to sustain fiscal gains by pursuing more high-quality reforms and avoiding "pro-cyclical" policies or heavy spending during the good times.

It proposed that the government enhance the revenue system even after the value-added tax reform by broadening the tax base, including a meaningful rationalization of income tax incentives.

The umpire writes back

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

AN EXECUTIVE FROM THE LOPEZ GROUP wrote us on that column regarding the Lopez group's recent media blitz for its claim of ownership of Equitable PCI Bank.

The group held a press conference, including television appearance on ANC news channel, owned by the country's biggest network ABS-CBN, in turn controlled by the Lopez group.

Even appearing in the media blitz were the patriarchs of the group, namely Manolo Lopez (Meralco) and Oscar Lopez (First Holdings and Benpres).

Following is the letter from Cesar Gomez, an umpire, este, a vice president of First Philippine Holdings Corp. for corporate communications:

"Your June 27 column contained factual errors as follows:

"1) First Philippine Holdings Corp. (FPHC) filed a complaint-in-intervention in Civil Case No. 35 before the Sandiganbayan on Dec. 28, 1988, and not 'after 20 years since the family came back from exile in the United States.'

"As stated in the complaint-in-intervention, FPHC assets that ownership of said shares could not have been lawfully transferred because FPHC's rightful owners were then in exile, their business illegally taken over through the use and abuse of power, pressure, threats and intimidation during the Marcos regime.

"In 1996, the Supreme Court upheld the right of FPHC to intervene in the sequestration proceedings on the PCIBank shares held by Trans Middle East (Phils.) Equities Inc. (TMEPEI), since there was no final determination of true ownership.

"When recent news items included reports that in October 2005, Mr. Martin Romualdez withdrew about P138 million from dividends and profit sharing of the shares in question, which shares were held in escrow pursuant to an order of the Sandiganbayan, FPHC caused the filing of an urgent motion before the Sandiganbayan to require EPCIB to explain the reported release of dividends of the shares held in escrow and if indeed there was a withdrawal/s, to require the return of the amounts withdrawn from escrow.

"2) The Lopez family was among the thousands of direct victims of the Marcos regime, and 'their pre-martial law businesses' were taken over forcibly and without just compensation. Any purported sale agreements were only executed under grave duress.

"3) The Lopez group does not owe EPCIB at least P6 billion."

So there, ladies and gentlemen, that's the letter from the corporate communications vice president, spoken like a true lawyer.

* * *

This little story on a business venture among "friends" perhaps can serve as a warning to us all.

It started when our insurance playboy invited three "friends" to venture into a business related to transport, suggesting that he, as the proponent, would own 40 percent, and each of the three "friends" would get 20 percent.

Two of the friends were Chinese-Filipinos, and judging from the family name (starts with "V") of the third partner, he is pure Filipino.

When the incorporation papers were finally done, the handsome son-of-his-father insurance fellow somehow twisted the arm of one of the "friends" to agree to own only 8 percent.

What happened to the remaining 12 percent? Well, the proponent got it, thus bringing his total holdings to 52 percent.

That was how he took majority control of the business in which the investments of the "friends" ran to tens of millions. It was not, even to the rich "friends," a joking amount.

As far as the friends could recall, the corporation never had a board meeting. The playboy proponent was running the business all by himself.

After only a few years, the playboy finally called for a board meeting, in which he unceremoniously demanded the "partners" put in... well, "additional capital."

The capital call did not come as a surprise to the others, actually, because they already knew what happened to their initial investments.

Even before the company could make its first sale, the capital was gone. The playboy used millions upon millions to put up a building, supposedly for the use of the business related to transportation.

All was fine. A building was still a hard asset, after all. Real estate normally does not lose value dramatically. If anything, the partners figured out, the value of building would even appreciate. Their investment was safe.

Not really! It turned out that the handsome leader of the pack put up the building on a piece of land, the ownership of which was being claimed by his girlfriend, possibly the "No. 2" at that time.

But that was not all, because part of the deal with the girlfriend was that ownership of the building, the one partly financed by the "friends," would be transferred to—who else—the girlfriend after 15 years.

Despite such an arrangement, the business related to transport paid for the lease of the property, which was (in the words of one of the "friends") an "unconscionable amount."

And finally here is the cherry: Somebody else is claiming ownership of the property. Guess who—the girlfriend's in-laws!

The in-laws filed a case, which went all the way to the Supreme Court, over the property on which the "business related to transportation" erected a building, almost wiping out its entire capital.

Question is, what happened to the "friendship" of the four partners. Well, let's just say that I don't suppose that the other three duped partners still fervently pray for long life for the playboy.

US firm Mirant to sell RP unit

From page B1

portfolios from late last year to potential interested parties around Asia.

Mirant Philippines last year contributed $370 million in adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) to its parent firm.

Just minutes after getting wind of Mirant's plan to sell its assets in the Philippines, the top players in Philippine business--Metrobank's George Ty, the old rich Ayalas and Aboitizes, and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s Manuel V. Pangilinan--have expressed strong interest in what is being touted as the powerhouse deal of the century.

"It's a rare chance to buy in one shot an energy platform of 2,203-MW power plants assembled over three administrations in the power-hungry Philippine market," said Arroyo economic adviser and Albay Rep. Joey Salceda.

The deep-pocketed Filipino buyers are expected to find stiff competition from overseas such as the AIG group, One Energy (50-50 joint venture between Hong Kong's CLP Holdings Ltd. and Japan's Mitsubishi Corp.), Mitsubishi Corp., China Light and Power, Korea Electric Power, Tokyo Electric and Kyushu Electric.

Salceda said the divestment of Mirant has sent a rush of excitement in the Philippine energy sector as the interested buyers not only wanted Mirant's existing assets but were also keen to take advantage of new opportunities in the country.

Reacting to the announcement, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said it was "not entirely unexpected, given the financial condition of Mirant Philippines' mother company in the US."

He said the government just had to ensure that the buyer or buyers of Mirant's assets would be qualified to perform its obligations to National Power Corp. with regard to the IPP contracts attached to the assets to be placed on the auction block.

"Government notes that operations in these plants remain profitable and foresee keen interest among investors. Higher expected economic growth supported by rising foreign direct investments demonstrates that investor confidence remains intact and will help sustain the profitability of these plants," Lotilla said in a separate statement yesterday.

He added that given Mirant Philippines' asset size, more "financially stable, new investors" would likely come in on top of those interested in Napocor assets. *With a report from Reuters*

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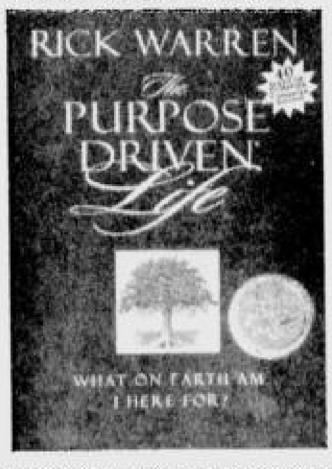

Dr. Warren's wife, MS. KAY WARREN, Author, Teacher, and Co-founder of Saddleback Church and Acts of Mercy, will speak before MAP on 24 July 2006, Monday, 12:00 Noon, Grand Ballroom, Hotel Inter-Continental Manila. Her topic will be "HOW TO BE JOYFUL NO MATTER WHAT"(Political crisis, Economic crisis, Family crisis, Personal crisis...).

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NOTICE OF MEETING
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

To ALL PICPA Members:

In accordance with the provisions of Article XIII, Section 1 and 3 of the By-Laws of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, notice is hereby given that the Annual Membership Meeting will be on Friday, July 21, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Publication of Notice of Meeting
3. Certification as to Presence of Quorum
4. Reading and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
6. Report of the President
7. Report of the Treasurer
8. New Business
9. Determination of the place of the next annual meeting
10. Adjournment

We urge all members to attend the Annual Membership Meeting. For members who cannot be present in person, please accomplish and return to us the general proxy form. The general proxy form can be downloaded from the PICPA website www.picpa.com.ph or can be obtained from the PICPA National and Chapter Offices.

Arnel F. de Jesus
National Secretary

High cement prices traced to cartels

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A GROUP OF CEMENT MAKERS YESTERDAY said prices of basic building materials like cement were high in certain areas of the country because of collusion among some dealers.

Ernesto M. Ordoñez, president of the Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines, said manufacturers have not increased their prices in the last five months and that they were in fact absorbing part of increased costs incurred during that period.

But retail prices have gone up in some areas because a number of dealers have banded together to control the selling prices of cement.

He cited the case in Benguet where cement was being sold at P195 for a 40-kilogram bag, much higher than the suggested price of P175.

He said Cemap had coordinated with the Department of Trade and Industry on the matter and that efforts had led to the arrest of four people.

"After the arrests, prices of cement settled at the suggested price, which indicates (collusion) among dealers to set prices," Ordoñez said.

Cemap had been under fire due to what its critics say were abnormally high prices of materials such as cement at a time of excess production capacity.

Ordoñez said manufacturers last increased their prices by 5-9 percent in January due partly to the rise in the value added tax.

Legend CEO bucks order of HK court

Boon questions validity of order in RP

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS LTD. chief executive officer Khoo Boo Boon is not leaving his post without a fight.

"I'm a director of a company in the Philippines. If I allow an execution of a foreign order, I will be personally held criminally liable (under Philippine laws)," Khoo told reporters on the sidelines of CitisecOnline.Com's public listing at the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

Khoo was reacting to the order handed down by a Hong Kong court, which put the Hong Kong-based LIRL under liquidation and directed services firm Alvarez & Marsal to take over the company's management.

Khoo denied allegations that he had mismanaged the company to the point that it was no longer able to settle debts and remit revenues to the government.

Alvarez & Marsal director Martin Yupangco, who was tasked to take over the day to day operations of the company, meanwhile said in a statement that the company was running the risk of having its operations deteriorate even further if no management changes were made.

"The business is not sustainable in its present situation. Without a casino license, the business won't survive. It has to be managed properly, marketed properly and [it has to have] good relations with Pagcor (Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.) and SBMA (Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority)," Yupangco said.

LIRL, the operator of the Legend Hotel and Casino in the former US military base, was placed under liquidation last June 9.

The appointment of a liquidator stems from a petition filed last November 3, 2004 by Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Inc., a creditor of LIRL, to liquidate or sell the assets of LIRL for its failure to pay its debts.

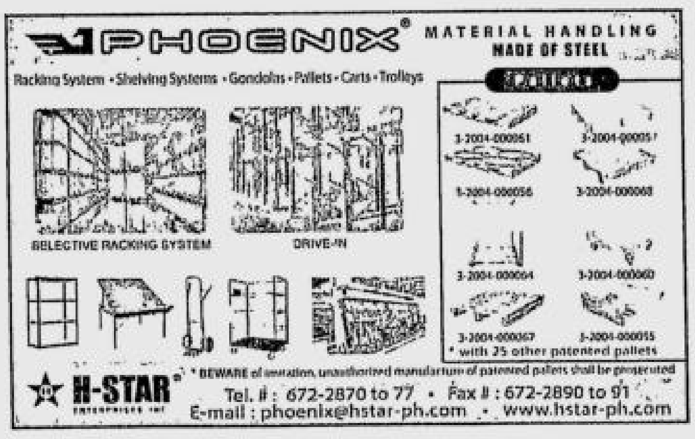
Morgan Stanley claimed in its petition before the Hong Kong court (the equivalent of the Philippines' Court of Appeals) that LIRL owes it and another investment firm, Avenue Capital, roughly $120 million.

LIRL owes another P365 million to Pagcor., which ordered LIRL to close its casino operations two months ago over the unpaid bills. Lawyer Conrado Dar Santos, counsel for the liquidators, said that under Hong Kong law, the high court can place financially distressed companies under liquidation and appoint liquidators to rehabilitate ailing firms.

Tension rose on Monday when Khoo refused to recognize his successors. His men even drove the group of Kelvin Flynn, managing director of Alvarez & Marsal, out of the hotel's lobby.

Flynn added that he had visited the Subic property on Monday but was blocked by Khoo from implementing management changes at the hotel and Subic properties as part of the liquidation proceedings.

He claimed Khoo had prevented his access to the Subic properties—consisting of Legenda Suites, Grand Seasons Hotel and Legend Hotel, which houses the casino.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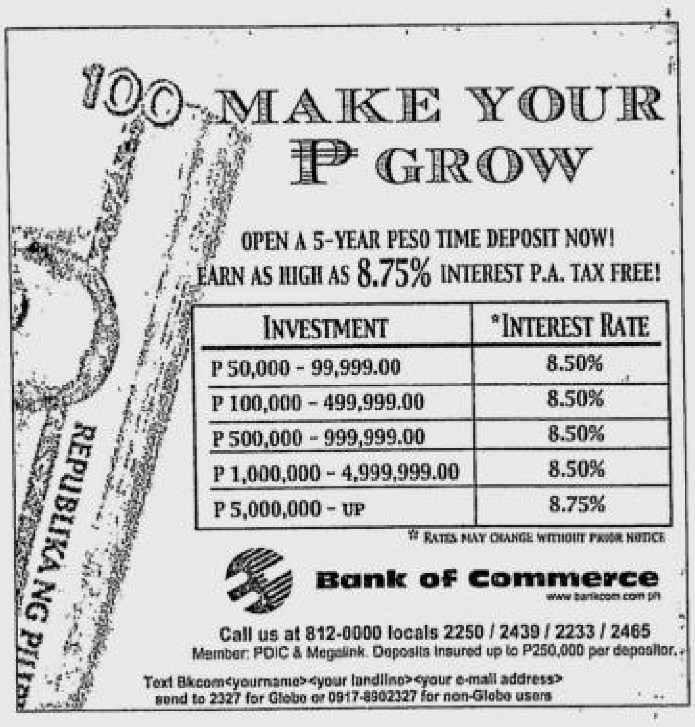
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Camiguin: Tourism, 'lanzones' and windmills

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

I WAS ON THE ISLAND OF CAMIGUIN LAST week for the 5th Mindanao Human Resource Skills Forum, which was attended by over 300 technical vocational schools administrators / owners and the key people in all the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (Tesda)offices in Mindanao.

Governor Pedro "Loloy" Romualdo, who is a great supporter of this sector, honored us with his presence during the closing ceremonies together with Tesda Deputy Director General Santiago Yabut.

The governor proudly spoke of this island paradise and its White Island, Mantigue Island, Katibawasan Falls, Sto. Nino Cold Spring, and the world famous volcano crater of Mt. Hibok Hibok.

This island also played host to the Queen of Spain a few months ago. The Spanish government is now seriously looking into the possibility of putting up wind mills in Camiguin can be a major source of cheap power and energy. Also, windmills will be a great tourist attraction. I think this will soon come true because a Spanish technical team was in Camiguin last week to talk with the governor.

Lanzones is one of the trademark of this island, and I was told that its sweetness was due to the combination of volcanic soil and weather in the area. It is a seasonal fruit. With the current technology, I wonder if it is possible to grow *lanzones* all throughout the year.

A total 176,370 tourist visited the island in 2005, of which 171,827 were local tourists, 4,162 foreign tourists and 381 *balikbayans*. Visitors from the United States, Japan and Korea comprised the bulk of the foreign tourists. Most of the local investments in the tourism sector were owned by locals who married foreigners.

The local government is now embarking on what it calls corporate tourism.

The development of the tourism sector will be led by the private sector and the government will just provide the infrastructure support. Attractive incentives will be given to investors and the cost of doing business in the island will be minimal. There will be very little or no bureaucracy that normally confronts investors in the course of doing business.

Through the years, the island province has been showing economic developments with trade and investments pouring in, particularly in the services sector. The services sector was a major contributor in the island's investments growth in 2005.

The value of trade and investments recorded by the Department of Trade and Industry rose by 38.21 percent to P340 million in 2004 from P246 million in 2003. However, no new SEC-registered investment in Camiguin was noted during the period.

The province's agriculture sector also showed increase production rates in 2004. Palay production increased by 15.38 percent while the rest of Northern Mindanao reported a slight decline. This was attributed to the increased utilization of hybrid seeds. For the fourth quarter of 2004, Region 10 had a supply of 157,476 MT of corn as against demand of 27,730.03 MT, or a a surplus of 129,745.97 MT.

Region 10 exports in 2004 amounted to US$459 million, an increase of 25 percent from $ 368 million in 2003. However, Camiguin's share is lowest at 0.02 percent, the more reason that Camiguin should focus on tourism as its economic driver.

Camiguin is one of the most peaceful islands in the Philippines. About 97 percent or 72 out of 74 crimes reported in the area in 2004 were solved. There is no indication of dissident terrorists or threats to national security noted.

A former sub province of Misamis Oriental, it became independent upon the issuance of R.A.No. 4669 on June 18, 1966. It is a pearl-shaped island, which has an area of about 238.63 square kilometers.

It is the smallest province in Region 10 representing 1.7 percent of the total land area of Northern Mindanao (1,401.891 hectares). The province is composed of five municipalities and 58 *barangays*. Of the 5 municipalities, Mambajao accounted for 37 percent of the total land area. Guinsiliban had the smallest share at 8 percent. Catarman had the second largest share of 22.5 percent followed by Mahinog, which is 14 percent.

The island province's economy continues to improve over the years as indicated by improvements in its vital economic indicators.

(Author is an advocate for Mindanao and chair of Joji Ilagan Foundation. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Brgy. Carayman, Calbayog City
Tel. No. (055) 2098-211

INVITATION TO BID

July 7, 2006

The SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (SAMELCO I) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following:

1. Supply of labor for the construction of its expansion projects.
2. Supply and delivery of the various electrical hardwares and equipment for line construction, operation and maintenance.
3. Supply and delivery steel poles, anchor logs (wood) and crossarms

Interested eligible bidders may obtain furhter information and bidding documents upon payment of non-refundabe amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php2,500.00) in the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday).

SAMELCO I Headquarters
Brgy. Carayman, Calbayog City

Interested bidders who are not yet accredited must submit the following requirements to be eligible for bidding:

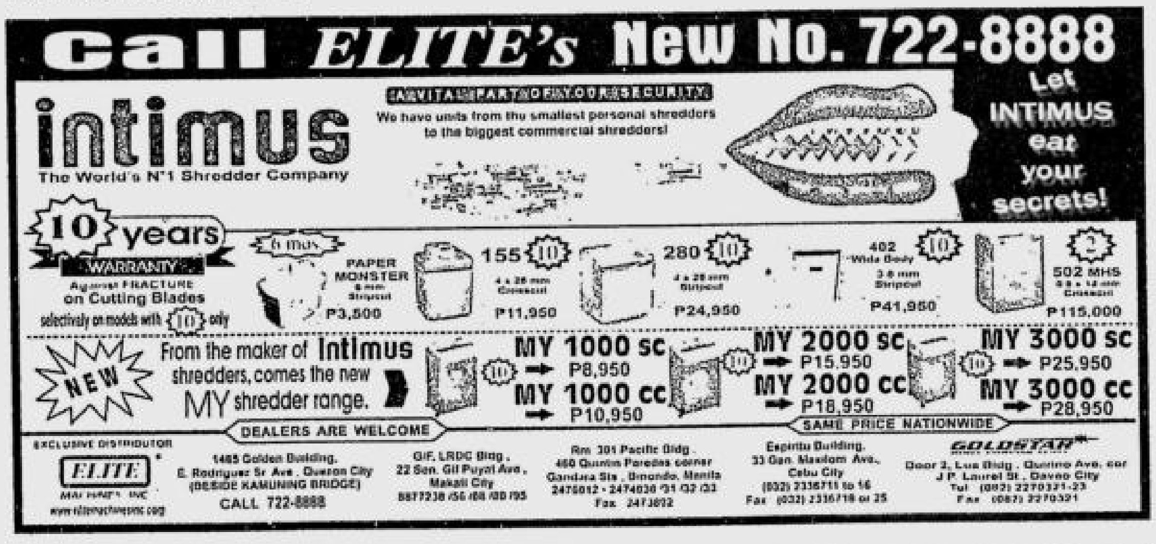
1. Company Profile
2. List of Clients served

For purposes of clarification and details of the items due for bidding a pre-bid conference will be held at 10:30 a.m. on July 20, 2006 at the address above.

Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 2:00 p.m. on July 21, 2006 accompanied by bidder's bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the bid price. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder or bidder's representative at the address above at 2:00 p.m. on July 21, 2006.

The Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - July 13, 14 & 15, 2006)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Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time		NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
2 Units Sorter Machine (Desktop Type Machine) Plus: Three (3) Years Maintenance Services	P20,000,000.00 10,123,200.00	July 27, 2006 2.00 pm	August 9, 2006 1:00 PM	P15,100.00
1 Lot Supply, Delivery and Installation of Systems Furniture at LBP Cabanatuan Branch	P3,127,000.00	July 27, 2006 2.00 pm	August 9, 2006 1:00 PM	P1,600.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the General Services Department starting July 13, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at GSD Bidding Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila

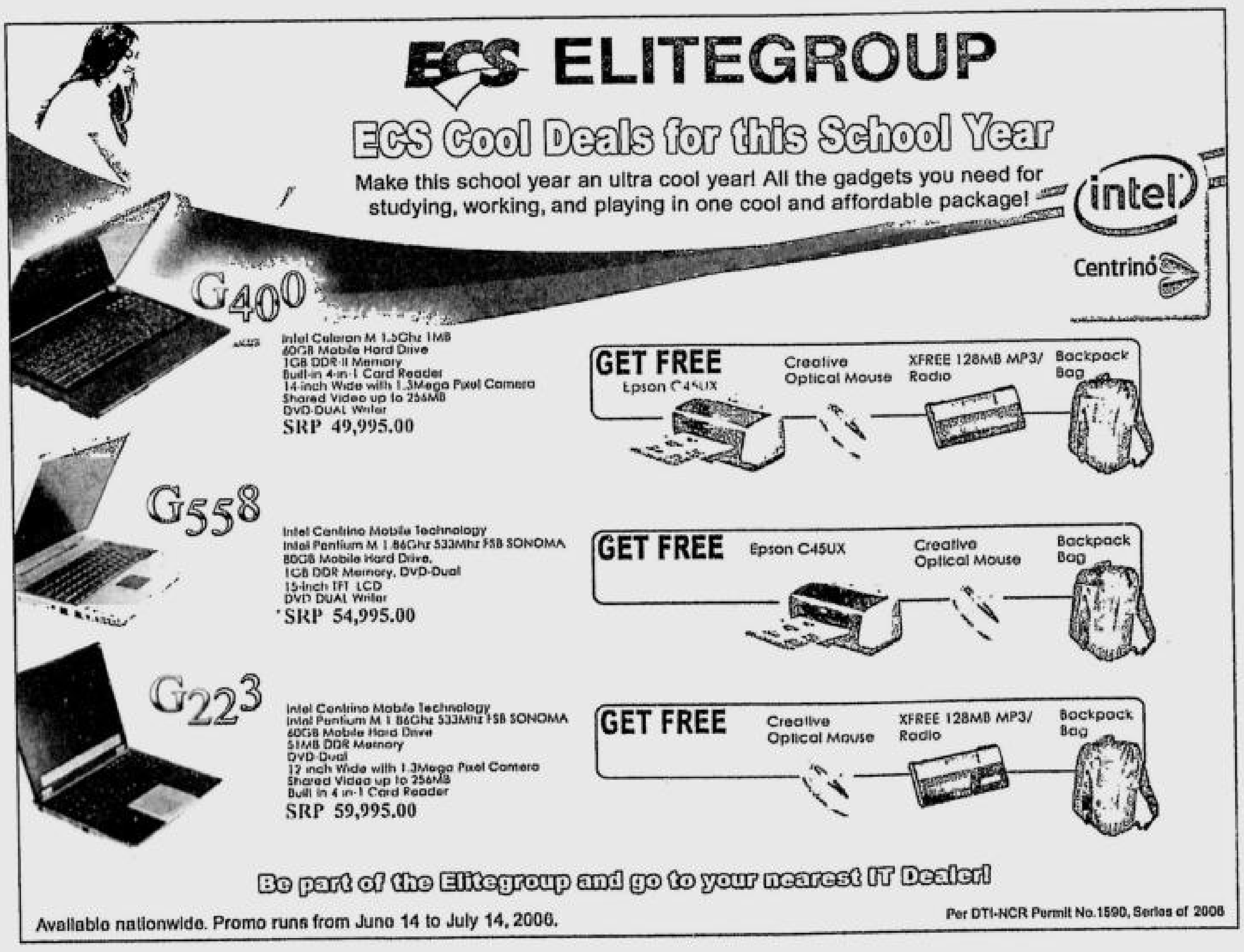
The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the abovementioned address

For more information, please call the LBP-Requisitions Management Division at telephone nos. 551-2200 locals 2452, 2453, 7233 & 7234

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

(PDI—July 13 & 20, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE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Online broker's share price up sharply on listing day

Lepanto to open copper mine in Benguet

AFTER SUSPENDING ITS COPPER OPERATIONS for about five years, Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. is re-opening its copper mine in Mankayan, Benguet Province in view of the rising metal prices in the world market, Lepanto chair Felipe Yap said.

Yap said copper prices had surged to a high of $3 a pound in the international market this year, from a low of 70 cents in 2001. The low copper prices then made it difficult for the company to continue operating the copper mine in 2001.

Yap said Lepanto's copper mine would restart commercial operations by September.

Lepanto was incorporated in 1936. It used to operate an enargite copper mine until 1997, when it shifted to gold bullion production through its Victoria Project in Benguet.

Lepanto operated a copper flotation plant from August 2000 to December 2001, when copper operations were suspended.

Lepanto sells its gold bullion production to Johnson Matthey and Heraeus Ltd (Hong Kong). Its copper concentrates were sold through metals trading firms Trafigura Beheer and Centrotrade Minerals and Metals, which are based in Switzerland and Canada, respectively. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

BancNet ties up with China's CUP

AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE CONSORTIUM BancNet Inc. seeks to draw more tourists from mainland China to the Philippines via its link-up with China Unionpay (CUP), the only payment gateway in emerging Asia's stellar economy.

In an interview, Angelito Villanueva, BancNet chair and director of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., said the interconnection with CUP would boost tourism in the country by giving Chinese tourists access to BancNet ATMs.

BancNet started making available its ATMs to CUP cardholders in October last year. Soon, BancNet cardholders would also be able to do banking transactions using any CUP terminal in China, Villanueva said.

"It's a less expensive gateway, with a fee of only about $1 (per transaction)," he said.

The Cirrus Maestro gateway charges $3.50 (P185) per transaction.

CUP is the only switch for ATMs and point of sale terminals in China. It has 800 million cardholders, more than 80,000 ATMs and 40,000 POS terminals all over China.

BancNet, which is celebrating its 16th anniversary, has 4 million active cardholders.

"The use of ATMs is already moving toward maturity but the market is so big. There are only 12 million (ATM) cardholders out of a population of 85 million," Villanueva said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Market sees promising growth prospects in company's business

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SHARE PRICE OF ONLINE BROKER CitisecOnline.Com posted a sharp rise during its listing yesterday.

From its offer price of P1.36 per share, CitisecOnline or COL share price rose 23.5 percent to close at P1.68 per share, which was also its day-high. Total volume traded yesterday was placed at 6.65 million shares.

CitisecOnline is the second company to be listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange this year after power producer First Generation Corp.

CitisecOnline president Conrado Bate said the company raised P149.6 million from its initial public offering, which made available 110 million shares at P1.36 per share.

Local analysts said the growth prospects of the broker's line of business looked promising.

"Online brokering or trading may be a growth area if it reaches a critical mass and is cost effective," an analyst said.

Another analyst said CitisecOnline offered a steep discount to its offer price, luring the interest of market players.

CitisecOnline's share performance on its IPO day beat those of larger companies, including First Gen whose stock price ended weaker at P45.50 on its listing day.

The company is facing a breach of trademark rights suit, which was filed by American financial conglomerate Citigroup Inc. and banking unit Citibank N.A. with the Makati Regional Trial Court. The court will start hearing the case today.

In its complaint filed on June 30, Citigroup claimed that the use of the names bearing "citi" by CitisecOnline and Citisecurities Inc. constituted a breach of trademark rights over its registered "Citi" marks, including "citibank," "citicard," "citicorp," "citidirect," "citifinancial," "citigroup," "citiphone" and "citiservice."

"We are not taking this case very lightly. We are flattered that one of the largest companies in the world are going after us. The possible downside here is a change in name. It is not huge. There is no risk of us closing down or not being able to serve our clients anymore. We are confident that we will be able to keep our name," Bate said.

CitisecOnline will use the bulk of the IPO proceeds to support new products that it will launch in the next few months and to upgrade its online trading technology. CitisecOnline has grown its clients to 600 to date. Its average monthly trades stood at P154 million in the first six months of this year, higher than P72 million in 2005.

Bate said the company has returned to profit this year and it hoped to remain profitable in the coming years.

CitisecOnline plans to offer credit lines to small and medium investors that can be used for trading under the so called "margin financing."

CitisecOnline chair Edward Lee said the group was also developing its online trading website for the Hong Kong and China markets through wholly-owned subsidiary CitisecOnline.Com Hong Kong Ltd., a member of the Hong Kong bourse.

PETRON chair Nicasio Alcantara (right) hands over a check worth P375 million to Philippine National Oil Co. president and CEO Eduardo Mañalac (left) while Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla looks on. The amount represents cash dividends paid by Petron to PNOC, which holds 3.75 billion Petron shares or 40 percent of the oil firm.

Finance open to a P10-B cut in BIR '07 target

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE said it was willing to slash by P10 billion the Bureau of Internal Revenue's P793-billion collection target for 2007 to factor in certain adjustments in the implementation of the expanded value-added tax law.

Government sources privy to a recent meeting of the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee said the DOF was, however, not keen on changing the BIR's revenue target for 2006 until actual collections in the first semester had come in.

The BIR had actually requested the DBCC to lower the revenue agency's 2007 collection target by P24 billion. It also wants the taxes collected on government securities be reported separately since "the BIR should neither be penalized nor benefited from any shortfall of overperformance in the collection of the taxes on government securities."

The DOF, according to the sources, was amenable to a mere P10-billion cut. They said finance officials recognized the need to scale down the agency's target for next year because the 2007 budget was based on the projected revenue collections of BIR for 2006, wherein P40 billion was projected to come from administrative measures recently implemented.

For this year, Revenue Commissioner Jose Bunag is seeking a correction in the reformed VAT projections. The DOF had projected additional revenue of P80 billion from the reformed VAT law.

However, sources said that as the 2-percentage-point increase in the VAT rate to 12 percent was implemented only starting February instead of January, the projected collection should be reduced to P75 billion.

But there was an error in splitting the VAT collection task between the BIR and the Bureau of Customs as the government used the 2004 data which showed more domestic oil production than imports, thus requiring a reallocation of collections from the BIR to BOC.

St. Luke's unit to offer shares to doctors

ST. LUKE'S GLOBAL CITY MEDICAL ARTS Building Corp., owned largely by one of the country's largest hospitals, is planning to offer P1.56 billion worth of shares exclusively to its doctors to raise fresh funds to partly finance the construction of a P7-billion world-class hospital in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, an official told INQUIRER.

In an interview, St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) president Jose Ledesma said the St. Luke's medical group would remain a non-stock and non-profit corporation, clarifying that the share issuance would not be a public offering.

The shares to be issued will give doctors the right to occupy medical clinics in the new Medical Arts Building in Fort Bonifacio that would be built by the SLMC Group.

An application to register these shares was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday.

The company will use funds from the existing hospital in Quezon City to finance the bulk of the project cost.

The new hospital will have two towers—one of which is the proposed Medical Arts Building that will house 375 doctors' offices. The second tower is a 14-story hospital building for patients with 600 beds.

The proposed hospital will sit on a 1.6-hectare lot with a gross floor area of 154,000 square meters and will be one of the biggest hospitals in the metropolis in terms of total floor space.

Construction of the new hospital has yet to start after the SLMC Group awards the construction to interested bidders this month. Excavation on the site, to lay the groundwork for the construction, has started early this year.

Ledesma said the new hospital was expected to generate 2,700 new jobs for non-medical staff. It will bring in about 1,000 doctors, partly from St. Luke's in Quezon City.

Even with the new hospital, St. Luke's will continue to operate its world-class hospital in Quezon City.

SLMC in Quezon City is touted as the most advanced hospital in the country in terms of medical equipment and technology, professional expertise, range of services, quality of patient care, medical research and customer service. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

PPA . . .

From page B1

ger and cargo shipping. The more recently built Harbor Center is also a direct competitor.

Sevilla indicated that Neda officials have questioned the move to allow Manila's major ports be run by a single entity, but assured that the threat of a monopoly no longer existed today.

"The fear of monopoly is gone," he said. "It is no longer applicable now."

Sevilla said that ICTSI has expressed interest in North Harbor's operations, adding that the firm's executive vice president, Edgardo Abesamis, has expressed interest in the project, especially if it is found to be a viable business.

Officials of Harbor Center, Lorenzo Shipping Corp. and Magsaysay Shipping Lines hve also met with the PPA chief to inquire about the status of privatization plans for the port, which Sevilla said might be completed "within the year."

Neda's representative to the PPA board had indicated that it would take at least 30 days for the policy to be decided on.

As an added justification, Sevilla said that cutting up North Harbor's operations might not make business sense and could spoil its privatization.

"If you will divide North Harbor because of the volume, it might not attract bidders," he said, adding that offering the port in its entirety would give the winning bidder the right to develop the entire facility, and give them the leeway to develop not only cargo facilities but even the terminal that may be used for tourism.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 12, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	31.5	31	31	784,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49.5	49.5	48	48.5	1,136,400
China Banking Corp	865	865	865	865	20
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	740,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	73.5	73.5	72	72.5	241,500
International Exch. Bank	41.5	42	41.5	42	15,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35	35.5	34.5	35	2,595,700
Philippine National Bank	33	33.5	33	33.5	40,900
Phil. Savings Bank	39	39	39	39	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	19	19	18.75	19	38,300
Security Bank Corp.	46	46	46	46	695,900
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	1.5	1.68	1.5	1.68	6,655,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31	31	31	31	5,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1660	1660	1660	1660	1,050
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	0.99	0.99	50,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2020	2020	2020	2020	450
Ivantage Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.22	1,022,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	44.5	45	44.5	45	11,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45.5	45.5	44.5	45	391,700
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15	15	15	32,300
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	24	23.75	24	1,209,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.8	2,360,000
Petron Corp	3.9	3.95	3.85	3.85	2,794,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	80,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.5	23.5	23	23.5	32,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33	33	32.5	32.5	206,900
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.95	3	2.95	2.95	116,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	66	65	66	107,500
San Miguel Corp. B	71.5	71.5	71	71.5	115,000
Universal Robina Corp.	19.5	19.5	19	19.25	28,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	240,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	370,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.5	2,601,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	1,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	1,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	50,000
CHEMICALS					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	3,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	60,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	20,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0875	0.0875	0.085	0.085	4,700,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	400	405	400	400	146,970
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	450,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	684,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.74	1.76	570,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	32,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	3,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	3,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.1	11,566,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.85	3.75	3.75	554,000
Global Business Hldgs Inc.	49	49	49	49	500
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	2,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	500,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	260,000
SM Investments Corp.	210	212	209	210	134,230
South China Resources Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	110,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	11.5	12.25	11.5	12.25	15,646,400
Belle Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.04	1.04	2,370,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	1,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,050,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	150,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	1,860,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.47	1,000,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.033	0.037	0.033	0.037	400,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.26	2,599,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	360,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.44	20,257,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.2	1,180,000
Primex Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	50,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	11	11	10.75	10.75	2,700
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	550,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.6	5,273,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	200,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	33,900
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	14,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.24	2,356,000
Globe Telecom Inc	930	930	920	930	14,400
Pilipino Tel. Corp	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	972,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1955	1955	1945	1950	61,400
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	1,070,000
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	3,700,000
Ionics Inc	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	127,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	70,000
Philweb Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.031	0.032	15,100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	5,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.5	14.5	14	14	83,500
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	20,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	800,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	700,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc	3	3	3	3	59,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.98	2.02	1.98	2	102,000
Paxys Inc.	11	11	11	11	16,000
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	25.5	25.5	25	25	546,100
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.4	3,059,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	3.75	3.75	3.4	3.4	1,257,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.008	69,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.7	356,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	30,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	4,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	2,540,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	172,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.027	106,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	25,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.2	4.3	4	4	6,255,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.2	4.3	4.05	4.05	7,871,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27	27	27	32,700
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	1,350,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	20,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	340,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	213,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	9,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	293,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	600,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	16.25	16.5	16	16.25	624,100
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series I	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(PDR)	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.5	618,000

CURRENCIES

July 12, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.782595	1.000000	52.2000
Japan	Yen	0.006854	0.008758	0.4572
United Kingdom	Pound	1.445453	1.847000	96.4134
Hongkong	Dollar	0.100681	0.128650	6.7155
Switzerland	Franc	0.638645	0.816060	42.5983
Canada	Dollar	0.691644	0.883783	46.1335
Singapore	Dollar	0.495689	0.633392	33.0631
Australia	Dollar	0.588594	0.752106	39.2599
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.076014	2.652731	138.4726
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.208687	0.266660	13.9197
Brunei	Dollar	0.494125	0.631393	32.9587
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000111	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.020701	0.026452	1.3808
UAE	Dirham	0.213079	0.272272	14.2126
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.277800	66.7012
Argentina	Peso	0.253677	0.324149	16.9206
Brazil	Real	0.358742	0.458400	23.9285
Denmark	Kroner	0.134031	0.171265	8.9400
India	Rupee	0.017009	0.021734	1.1345
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214410	0.273973	14.3014
Mexico	New Peso	0.071320	0.091133	4.7571
New Zealand	Dollar	0.480739	0.614288	32.0658
South Africa	Rand	0.110051	0.140623	7.3405
Korea	Won	0.000826	0.001056	0.0551
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024119	0.030819	1.6088

Stocks end lower

From page B1

date," said AB Capital Securities analyst Erwin Balita.

Balita said he remained cautiously optimistic over the market's prospects, given recent economic news, which showed inflation still at manageable levels and exports growing at double-digit rate.

Weighing heavily on the index, PLDT lost 0.8 percent at P1,950, in step with the 1.7-percent loss by the company's American Depositary Receipts in New York Tuesday. The stock also fell on profit-taking after rising during the previous session on the company's announcement it has completed the acquisition of call center operator SPI Technologies.

Other stocks that weighed on the market were Bank of the Philippine Islands, off 2 percent at P48.50, and SM Prime, lower by 2.6 percent at P7.60.

Limiting the market's loss, Ayala Land gained 2.1 percent at P12.25 on 15.65 million shares traded, making it the most actively traded stock.

Philex Mining "A" and "B" each rose 1.3 percent to close at P4 and P4.05 respectively on higher world metal prices.

Decliners led gainers 37 to 28, while 61 stocks were unchanged. *AP*

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
PNOC The Energy Company
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO. Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320 Fax No. 840-1575

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and classified, at least, as Category C & D / IAC Small Sub-Category B for General Engineering or General Building to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

CONSTRUCTION OF THE LEYTE GEOTHERMAL PRODUCTION FIELD (LGPF)
PAD 405 AND PAD 407 PIPE TRENCHES
EDC 06-021-1

The Approved Budget is **P4,287,910.00** chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is **120 calendar days**.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o N. A. Nicolasora) starting **July 13, 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00).

Site inspection shall be conducted on **July 28, 2006, 10 A.M.** at the Leyte Geothermal Production Field (LGPF). For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **August 1, 2006, 10:00 A.M.** at PNOC-EDC, 1st Floor Building 5, PNOC-EDC, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st floor Bldg. 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. on August 15, 2006** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC - EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI—July 13, 2006)

20-hour water cutoff

SOME AREAS OF MANILA WILL HAVE NO water for 20 hours starting 11:30 p.m., Saturday, July 15, until 7:30 p.m., Sunday, July 16.

The water service interruption is due to the replacement of the existing 500mm-diameter gate valve along United Nations Avenue cor. A. Mabini St., Ermita, Manila.

The areas that will have no water for 20 hours are the following: the area bounded by Luneta, UN Avenue, M.H. Del Pilar, A. Mabini St., Padre Faura St., M. Adriatico St., Pedro Gil St. (West), Pres. Qurino Avenue (West) and San Andres St (West); the area bounded by UN Avenue, Taft Avenue, Pres. Quirino Avenue and Roxas Boulevard; and the area bounded by UN Avenue, Tripa De Galina, Pedro Gil St. and Taft Avenue.

The repair and maintenance works are part of Maynilad's continuing program to upgrade and improve its service to customers in these areas.

Affected customers are advised to store water good for the duration of the water service interruption. They may also call Maynilad Water Hotline 1626 or text Maynilad through SMART 7001626 for the water-rationing schedule.

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DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City
Tel. #221-9400

INVITATION FOR BEST OFFER

(2nd PUBLICATION)

1. The Davao City Water District, through the Approved Budget for 2006 intends to apply the sum of **P750,000.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under contract as listed below. Offer received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of bid/offer.
2. The Davao City Water District now invites Bids/offer for the Supply of One (1) unit 2nd hand Water Tanker intended for the hauling of water for human consumption wih the following descriptions:

   Loading Capacity : 14 cu. Meter
   Aluminum Tank.
   Isuzu engine
   6 cylinder
   8 wheelers and a good running conditions
3. The award shall be given to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bid. However the units is subject for the inspection of the DCWD authorized representative as part of the evaluation procedure before the award given to the LCRB.
4. Please attach picture and copy of latest registration certificate
5. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Davao City Water District and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m up to 5:00 p.m.
6. Bid opening shall be at the DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City on July 27, 2006 @ 9:00 a.m.

   Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
7. The *Davao City Water District* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Davao City Water District
BAC-A
J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City
Tel. No. : 221-9400 (8000)
E-mail add : dcwd@davao-water.gov.ph
Fax No. : 224-5392
Website : www.davao-water.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **VIRGINIA S. MARIMON**
BAC-A Chairperson

(PDI—July 6 & 13, 2006)

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Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Nueva Vizcaya
Municipality of Solano

Design, Site Development and Construction of the Proposed New Solano Public/Commercial Market Annex Building Project

Design and Construct/Build Scheme

The Municipality of Solano, by virtue of a duly approved Sanggunian Bayan Resolution, has authorized the Honorable Mayor Santiago O. Dickson to secure a loan from the Lank Bank of the Philippines for the payment under the contract: Design, Site Development and Construction of the Proposed New Solano Public/Commercial Market Annex Building – DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT/BUILD SCHEME.

The Municipality of Solano intends to apply the sum of **SIXTY FIVE MILLION PESOS (P65,000,000)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) as payments under the contract for the Design, Site Development and Construction of the Proposed New Solano Public/Commercial Market Annex Building. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening

The Municipality of Solano through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) now calls for the submission of the Letter of Intents (LOIs) from potential Proponents/Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Design, Site Development and Construction of the Proposed New Solano Public/Commercial Market Annex Building. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Proponents/Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before the date scheduled below at the BAC Secretariat, Municipal General Services Office, New Municipal Hall, Solano Nueva Vizcaya and secure the Eligibility Documents and General Project Information and Terms of Reference for the Project therefrom, upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00). Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on August 4, 2006 at the Function Room New Municipal Hall Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. Only those Proponents/Bidders passing the eligibility check and whose Architectural Plans and Outline Specifications passed the minimum design standards, performance and specifications criteria will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR – A) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, only to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Proponents/Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Proponent/Bidder who was determined as such during the post-qualification.

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	July 7 - 23, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	July 10 - 27, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	July 28 - August 4, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	August 9, 2006
5. Issuance of General Project Information	August 11 - 16, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	August 16, 2006
7. Issuance of Terms of Reference	August 17 - 23, 2006
8. Submission of Architectural Design	August 30 - September 6, 2006
9. Result for the selection of Architectural Design	September 12, 2006
10. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 13 - 20, 2006
11. Supplemental Bid Bulletin	September 28, 2006
12. Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 27, 2006
13. Evaluation of Lowest Calculated Bid	October 30 - November 6, 2006
14. Post-qualification	November 9 - 16, 2006
15. Resolution of Award	November 18, 2006

Interested Proponents/Bidders may secure and pay the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) for the eligibility documents and submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents with the corresponding copy of the original receipt (O.R) of its purchase to the BAC Secretariat on or before the date scheduled. The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Proponents/Bidders as provided in the Instructions to Proponents/Bidders.

Interested eligible Proponents/Bidders may obtain further information from the Municipal Government of Solano and inspect the Bidding Documents at the BAC Secretariat, Municipal General Services Office, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM of September 13 - 20, 2006.

Eligible Proponents/Bidders must submit their Architectural Plans and Outline Specifications at the BAC Secretariat as scheduled.

The Municipal Government of Solano will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Proponents/Bidders as scheduled on August 16, 2006, 9:00 AM, at the Function Room, New Municipal Hall, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Proponents/Bidders that passed the eligibility check and the minimum architectural plans design and outline specifications, design criteria, on the date as scheduled and upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.0). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Proponent/Bidder or his duly authorized representative as scheduled.

Eligible Proponents/Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before October 27, 2006 at 10:00 AM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on October 27, 2006 10:00 AM at the Function Room, New Municipal Hall, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below on October 27, 2006, 10:00 AM at Function Room, New Municipal Hall, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya.

Proponent's/Bidders must be willing to accept payments in the form of cash, bonds and other forms of financial instruments and/or long-term securities, and must be capable of undertaking the project either on a Semi-Turn-Key or Turn-Keys basis.

The required number of days to complete the works is 360 calendar days.

The Municipality of Solano reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Proponents/Bidders.

Waiver: The prospective bidder agrees and binds itself to abide by the final decision of the members of the BAC and further waives any legal action or claims against the LGU of Solano pertaining to the project now and the future.

BAC Chairman: MR. ARNEL G. DOMINCEL
Name of Office: Municipal General Services Office
Office Address: New Municipal Hall, Brgy. Roxas, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya
Telephone Number: (078) 326-5992
FAX Number: (078) 326-5992

Signature of the BAC Chairman or Authorized Representative of the BAC Chairman

(PDI—July 6 & 13, 2006)

OBITUARIES

FLORENTINA L. SALAS

February 5, 1913 to July 11, 2006

Has peacefully joined her Creator
on July 11, 2006 at the age of 93.

Her children **Ernie Salas** & **ChiChi**;
grandchildren **Rhoda**, **Jun-Jun**, **Ronnie** (†),
Carlo & **Patrice**; great granddaughter **Patty**, relatives
and friends request the pious readers to pray
for her eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at San Francisco Chapel,
Sanctuario de San Antonio, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 15, 2006
at 3:00 p.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina
after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at San Francisco Chapel,
Sanctuario de San Antonio, Makati City.

MORE CLASSIFIED ADS

Supreme Court **A19**
Landbank & Samar I Electric **B3**
LTO **B6**

MANUEL T. SANDIKO

Peacefully joined our Creator
on July 9, 2006 at the age of 88.

Children, **Lourdes**, **Myrna**, **Manuelito** (†), **Avelino**, **Danilo** (†),
Betty, **Mario**, **Wilfredo** (†), **Mamerto** (†), **Morris**, **Melandro**,
Matthew and **Melissa**; daughters-in-law; sons-in-law;
grandchildren and great grandchildren; nephews and nieces;
relatives request the pious readers to pray
for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc.
at Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 15, 2006 at Eternal Gardens
after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	: **Proposed 2-Classroom School Building— Package III (3rd District)**
Location	Candugay E/S Banli; BM Pañares NHS, Banli; Mantalongon NHS, Banli; Aloguinsan NHS, Aloguinsan; Angilan NHS, Aloguinsan; Anapog NHS, Pinamungahan; Buanoy Main NHS, Balamban; Nangka NHS, Balamban; Sta. Lucia NHS, Asturias; and Tuburan NHS, Tuburan: Province of Cebu
Brief Description	:Construction of 2-Classroom Schoolbuildings
Approved Budget for the Contract	: P 6,232,439.09
Contract Duration	135 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass / fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Applications for Eligibility	July 7 – 13, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	July 7 – 13, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	July 13, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	July 18, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	July 19, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	July 20, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	August 01, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Legislative Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P 50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 255-6123.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications, only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Four Thousand Pesos (P 4,000.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality in the bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO T. HABIN**
Chairman

(PDI – July 7 & 13, 2006)

DTI slaps duty on detergent ingredient

Gov't move seen protecting local chemical industry

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE and Industry yesterday said it was imposing a provisional safeguard duty on a key ingredient used in manufacturing detergents.

The move was prompted by its findings that the surge in imports of the main raw material used in manufacturing detergents had caused "serious injury" to local manufacturers.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said an additional P14.15 would be charged for every kilogram of imported technical grade sodium tripolyphosphate or STPP-TG.

Favila said the measure was to be effective "200 days from the issuance of a relevant Customs Memorandum Order, which was published today.

"The findings of DTI's investigation showed that the surge in the importation of STPP-TG has caused a decline in the domestic industry's market share, production, capacity utilization, productivity, sales and profitability," he explained.

Favila said the provisional safeguard measure would serve as a temporary relief to local firms that claimed they were suffering from the influx of imports.

"We have set it at a level which we believe would be sufficient to prevent the industry from sustaining further injury that would be difficult to repair unless a provisional measure is taken now," he said.

He added that the DTI would immediately forward the records of the case to the Tariff Commission, which would conduct its own public hearing and formal investigation.

Favila said the DTI would decide whether to impose a final safeguard measure based on the Commission's findings.

"This action signifies the government's commitment to extend the appropriate safety nets to prevent the demise of local industries facing intense competition from increased imports," he said.

Also, Trade Undersecretary Zenaida C. Maglaya said there would be no shortage of the chemical in the market even with the provisional safeguard measure.

"Our studies have shown that the effect of the provisional measure on the cost of detergents would be negligible and will not substantially affect prices of detergents," Maglaya said.

The domestic manufacturer has sufficient capacity to supply the requirements of downstream industries, she added.

Last April, the labor sector unit of advocacy group Fair Trade Alliance backed Chemphil Albright and Wilson Corp.'s petition for a safeguard duty on STPP.

"(Imposing an additional duty) is just and fair, given the predatory behavior of the importers-exporters involved in the dumping of STPP from China into the domestic market and given the now comatose state of the domestic industry," the FTA-Labor said.

The group said imported STPP now accounts for 60 percent of the market, with shipments shooting up 140 percent a year from 2000.

"This STPP surge is truly sudden, massive and debilitating for the local producers," the group added.

Kraft to bring tariff dispute to Customs court

By Christine A. Gaylican

KRAFT FOODS CORP., ONE OF the world's largest food and beverage companies, is exploring the possibility of bringing its tariff dispute with the Bureau of Customs before the World Customs Organization.

"We are exploring other avenues with which to resolve the tariff issue," said Tod Gimbel, Kraft Foods Asia Pacific corporate and government affairs director, in an interview yesterday.

The France-based WCO is composed of member-countries of the World Trade Organization and is tasked to ensure the free movement of goods across countries by harmonizing customs practices.

Gimbel said it was looking at this option even if its local unit, Kraft Foods Philippines, had already filed a petition with the Court of Tax Appeals.

The petition seeks to reverse the BoC order that said that imported pre-mix juices with a sugar content of more than 65 percent, such as Kraft's Tan and Kool Aid, should be levied a 38-percent duty.

Kraft is currently paying just a 3-percent duty on its pre-mix juices, citing the common effective preferential tariff rate of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"We would like to think that we were not targeted intentionally when the order was issued, because its primary intent at that time was to stop the prevalent smuggling of sugar. We however, seem to have been gotten caught in the net," Gimbel said.

"We did not change our product, it always has been determined to have a sugar content of more than 65 percent, but that does not necessarily mean that our products are all sugar. We incorporate or blend in other components to our products such as vitamins, flavorings and other fortifiers," he added.

Gimbel said that if Kraft loses its case, the company would have to pass on the added cost to its consumers in the Philippines.

"Increasing the tariff would be very detrimental to our business and to consumers," said Gimbel.

He said the company had not received any notice from the BoC, which earlier said it would allow Kraft to continue paying the low 3-percent duty, on condition that it would post a bond equivalent to the 38-percent tax on its high-sugar content beverages pending the resolution of the case by the CTA.

The BoC order was prompted by the local sugar sector, which has been urging government to stop allowing Kraft Foods from importing premix juices at such low tariffs.

"More than the industry, it is the national government that is placed at a gross disadvantage. Where revenue should be flowing in terms of tariff, it is being curtailed," said Jose Maria Zabaleta, executive director of the Philippine Sugar Millers Association.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph * Website: www.lto.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

PROCUREMENT OF TWO-WAY RADIO COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

The Land Transportation Office, through Fund 151 (MVUC) intends to apply the sum of Two Million Nine Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Three Hundred Sixteen Pesos (P2,934,316.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of payment for the procurement of two-way radio communication equipment. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Land Transportation Office now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the items. The required delivery schedule will be indicated in the approved Contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Sub-Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 10,000.00, in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 14, 2006 at 2:00 P.M., at the LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before July 26, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following form.

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One Percent (1%)
2. Bank Guarantee	One and a half Percent (1 1/2%)
3. Surety Bond	Two and a half Percent (2 1/2%)
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred Percent (100%)

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on July 26, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Land Transportation Office
Atty. Jimmy G. Pesigan, Chairman, BAC
East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9219077 – telefax

Engr. Roberto S. Se – Chairman, BAC Sub-Committee
Property Section, LTO, East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9292015 telefax

(Sgd.) ATTY. JIMMY G. PESIGAN
BAC-Chairman

(PDI – July 5 & 13, 2006)

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WHAT'S INSIDE
- Long live the Queen! /C2

LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
sms feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

- 'Bulanglang' finds its place in a museum /C4

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

How to entertain the kids and what to feed them

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

Kiddie party recipes, seafood with cilantro and crispy 'lechon kawali' from Reggie's kitchen

I HAVE TWINS AND WE ARE CELEBRATING their first birthday. Do you have any ideas for entertainment that is out of the ordinary? I don't like magicians or bubble shows. Can you please recommend? And do you have corn dog, burger, pimiento, and other children's party recipes that I can try out, too? Hopefully easy recipes... I hardly cook and it would be safe to say that this is the first time I am venturing into it.

CARLA C.

My son Diego just recently celebrated his second birthday and I had a puppet show for him. It was so much fun! It's perfect for that age group. I chose Sesame Street, Barney and Nemo! It ran for about 15 minutes. The puppets were nice, clean, and not at all *gusgusin*-looking! The puppet stage and the sound system they set up were not bad at all! I think it was well worth it! Call Peps Avecilla at 8251170, 0917-8437377.

And since you are brave enough to try and cook for your party, here are some of my most simple children's party recipes. Happy birthday to your twins. And good luck on your first real attempt at cooking.

Delicious Corn Dog

1 c corn meal
2 c all-purpose flour
¾ c sugar
3 eggs
2 tsp baking powder
1 ¼ c fresh milk

Combine ingredients in a bowl. Mix well. Dip skewered hotdogs on batter and deep fry in hot oil.

Mini Pork Barbecue

½ kg pork, sliced thin
½ c condensed milk
2 tbsp sugar
2 tbsp garlic paste
3 tbsp soy sauce
2 tbsp hoisin sauce

Combine ingredients and marinate. Skewer meat pieces and grill.

Burgers

Ground beef—¾ kg lean meat, ¼ kg beef fat
2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
¼ c grated onion
2 tsp garlic powder
2 tsp onion powder
2 tbsp cream
Salt
Pepper

Combine ingredients and form into patties. Grill.

Cheese Pimiento Sandwich Filling

2 c grated cheddar cheese
½ c roasted bell pepper, peeled and chopped
½ c cream cheese
¼ c condensed milk
2 tbsp sugar
Salt and pepper to taste

Mix all the ingredients until well combined.

Chicken Sandwich Filling

2 c chicken breast, boiled and flaked
1 c mayonnaise
½ c apples, chopped, squeezed with lemon juice
¼ c celery, chopped
salt, pepper, sugar to taste

I know that a lot of people dislike cilantro but I love it. Do you have recipes for cilantro, other than using it just for garnish? Preferably seafood.

MRS. M. REYES

Sure do, Mrs. Reyes! Remember, cilantro is *wansuy* and coriander. Not *kinchay*!

Cilantro Shrimp

1/3 c olive oil
¼ c butter
¼ c garlic
¼ kg tomatoes, chopped
1 thai chili or *labuyo*, to taste
¼ c white wine, stock or water
1 kg shrimps, peeled, de-veined, tails left intact
2 c cilantro
1 tbsp honey

Heat oil and butter. Sauté garlic and tomatoes. Cook tomatoes until they are soft. Add chilies and wine and let simmer for three more minutes. Add shrimps. Add rest of the ingredients. Season to taste.

Oven-baked Guinataang Lapu-Lapu

1 whole lapu-lapu, approximately 2 kilos, cleaned and scored
4 tsp lime or *kalamansi* juice
2 tbsp olive oil

Combine *kalamansi* juice and vegetable oil. Pour over lapu-lapu. Put fish on baking dish. Cover with foil. Bake in pre-heated 350°F oven for 30-40 minutes.

Sauce:

¼ c vegetable oil
2 c finely chopped onion
½ c chopped cilantro
2 tsp minced garlic
2 tsp minced ginger
Chili, thai or *labuyo*, to taste, sliced
1 c chopped fresh tomatoes
1 tsp turmeric
1 c coconut milk, second extraction
1 c coconut milk, first extraction
3 tsp fish sauce
3 tsp sugar

Heat oil and sauté onions until translucent. Add cilantro, garlic, onions, ginger, chilies, fresh tomatoes, turmeric and second extraction of coconut milk.

Simmer for 5 minutes or until tomatoes are soft. Add first extraction of coconut milk. Bring to one boil.

Season to taste with fish sauce and sugar.

Pour over baked fish. Serve.

What is the trick to making *lechon kawali* crispy? Can I have a recipe? Mine comes out soggy.

ANNA PELEA

1 kg *liempo*, whole
2 tsp salt
1 tsp pepper

Boil *liempo* in enough water, add salt and pepper and cook the meat until fork tender. Once tender, leave the *liempo* in its stock.

Deep-fry in hot oil. Make sure oil is hot before putting your *liempo*. Perfect temperature for oil is 350°F so it browns the meat exterior quickly.

If you are not frying immediately, keep the *liempo* in the freezer submerged in stock. Before frying, thaw and bring the pork to one boil before deep frying. The fact that it is submerged in stock makes the pork blister when fried and when it blisters, it guarantees a crisp *kawali*. So you must not dry the *liempo* out. From the stock, the wet *liempo* goes straight to the frying pan filled with hot oil to deep fry.

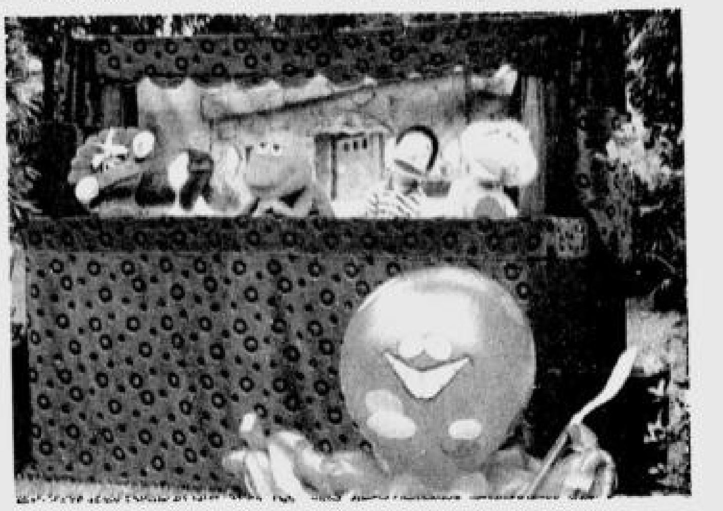
Once the popping stops, the *kawali* is ready.

Two weeks ago I wrote about Fish and Co. and completely forgot to give their telephone number and where it's located. My apologies! It's called Alzheimer's!

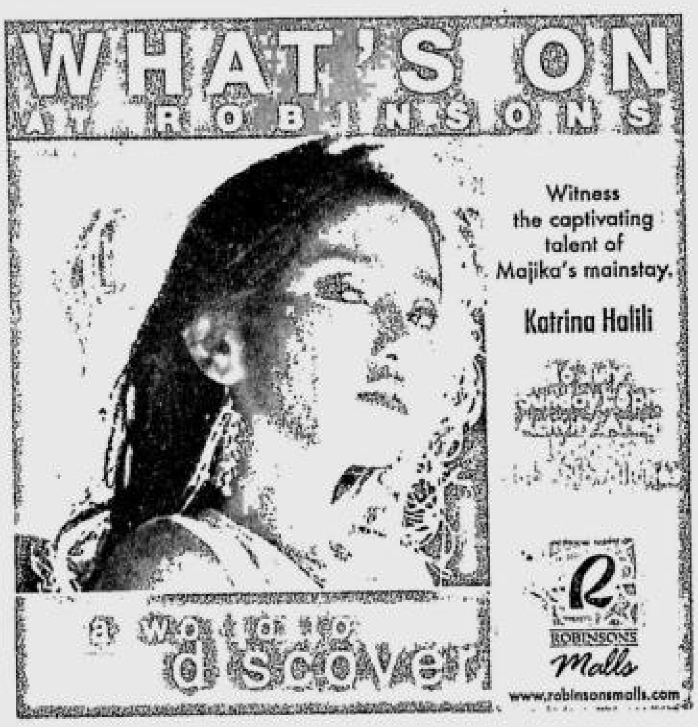
For all those who e-mailed, here it is: Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Mall, tel. 9102140; and Greenbelt 3, 7297431.

By the way, if you have not tried their cold shrimp and pasta salad, that's yummy, too!

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph



PUPPET SHOW not just for kids—the adults enjoyed it, too!



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ORANGE Julius Classic Smoothies are made from fresh fruits.

JULIUS gourmet hotdog

PECAN Mudslide

The Queen is back

THE ORIGINAL
BLIZZARD

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

REMEMBER THE ICE CREAM blended with generous portions of large chunks of Oreo cookies and M&M's candies?

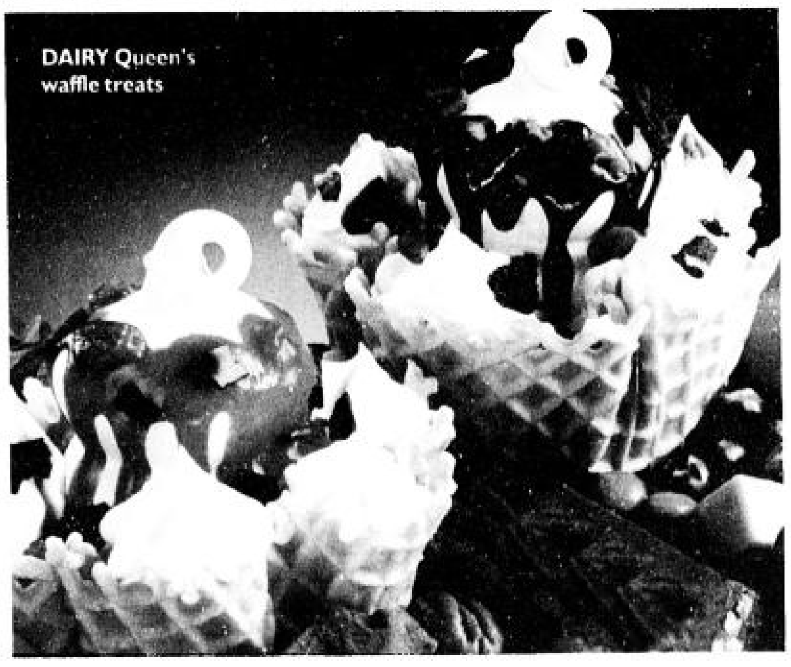
The ice cream was poured into a cup and served upside down to show how thick and creamy it was, and indeed not a single drop would fall to the floor.

Blizzard, as it was called, is back!

Dairy Queen (DQ), maker of the popular Blizzard, has been back in the Philippines for four months now under a new franchisee, the Araneta Group of Companies' food division, Philippine Pizza Inc. International Dairy Queen, Inc. (IDQ) awarded the franchise to the Aranetas after years of negotiations.

"It's the best and the biggest ice cream chain in the world. So, why should we not get it?" said Jorge Araneta, chair of the Araneta Group. "We knew people were happy with DQ products...we are excited to bring it back to those who still crave its goodness."

DQ, which was out of the local ice cream



DAIRY Queen's waffle treats

JUSTIN Holtkamp (right), director of international marketing of American Dairy Queen Corp., and Tony Tian, DQ's Asia marketing manager

THREEBERRY Blast

BANANA Sp

Taxi meter should be in plain view

By Linda B. Bolido

THE CONSUMER

INSTALLING TAXI METERS CAPABLE of issuing receipts is welcome news but something more basic should be done first. Meters should be installed in spots where passengers can easily read them—on the dashboard instead of being buried underfoot, almost literally.

All over the world, meters are placed at eye level of passengers but here they are usually installed behind gearshifts. You have to be some kind of contortionist to read the fare. The location of the meter seems to turn some drivers into magicians.

I have been in cabs where meters seem to be connected to the gearshift. Every time the driver shifts gears, the fare goes up (a taxi driver told me, though digital meters were supposed to be tamper-proof, ingenious Filipinos had managed to find ways to "improve" their running speed).

Sometimes, the driver turns off the meter before you can read the fare. You are left with no choice but to accept the driver's statement of how much you are supposed to pay, unless you have a good idea of what the fare should be.

I don't know about other people but I like to keep track of the amount registered in the meter so I can tell if it is running fast (I usually get off if I find that the meter is trying to set a new speed record). I also want to have the fare ready when the cab stops so I do not waste time searching for the right amount.

Waiting for Godot

One of the most stressful experiences for me is waiting for delivery of items I purchased or for technicians to service malfunctioning appliances.

Despite assurances they would arrive within a certain time period, they invariably show up much later.

The other day, after waiting for more than a week for a new bed frame, the store finally called up to say I should expect it the morning of the following day. I called up the next day to confirm and was told to expect it that morning.

By 1 p.m. the item had not arrived. I was told to expect it before 5 p.m. I don't know what time zone they are in but 5 p.m. is way past morning, even by Filipino time.

I am willing to accept a promise as vague as morning or even stretch morning to 1 p.m. But to be told to expect delivery in the morning and then be made to wait until 5 p.m. is definitely unacceptable.

What many establishments do not seem to understand is that, in many households, everyone is off somewhere—school, office, market, church, club meetings, etc.—every day that delivery people cannot just show up any time they want to and expect somebody to be waiting for them.

In many instances, waiting for delivery involves some inconveniences—schedules have to be rearranged, appointments canceled.

Thus, it should be no surprise if, like me, people get so irritated when delivery people fail to show up when expected.

Advice

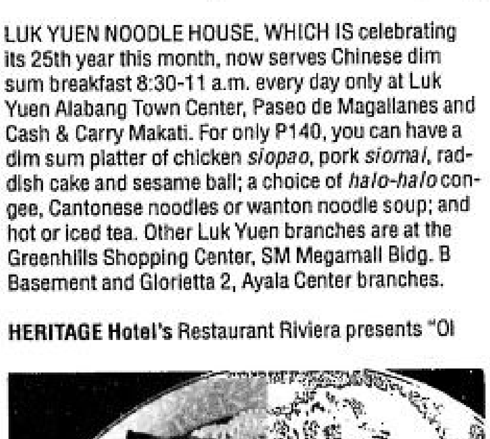
Regular reader Kenneth Hartigan-Go advises motorists to check the time stamped on tickets issued by pay parking places. He said, in one such place, they arrived after 12 noon but he found out later that their parking ticket was stamped 11 a.m. They had to pay extra for exceeding the minimum time of three hours. Go admitted he was at fault for not reading the ticket. His advice is to check the parking ticket before leaving the car in the garage.

(Our regular columnist, Marietta V. Giron, is indisposed. Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph —Editor)

Start your day with dimsum

LUK YUEN NOODLE HOUSE, WHICH IS celebrating its 25th year this month, now serves Chinese dim sum breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. every day only at Luk Yuen Alabang Town Center, Paseo de Magallanes and Cash & Carry Makati. For only P140, you can have a dim sum platter of chicken *siopao*, pork *siomai*, raddish cake and sesame ball; a choice of *halo-halo* congee, Cantonese noodles or wanton noodle soup; and hot or iced tea. Other Luk Yuen branches are at the Greenhills Shopping Center, SM Megamall Bldg. B Basement and Glorietta 2, Ayala Center branches.

HERITAGE Hotel's Restaurant Riviera presents "Ol American Fare," buffet lunch or dinner at P950+ per person. Dishes include Oven-baked Monterey Jack Chicken, Black Pepper Lamb, Rib Eye with Herb Paste, Rib finger with BBQ Sauce, Glazed Pork Leg with fruit compote and Honey Pork Tenderloin with Jack Daniel Sauce. Call 8548888.



WARM UP for the rainy days with the French Baker's new Bacon Potato Soup, which is made with real potatoes and bacon bits, and served in a bread bowl. You may follow it up with the Spinach Fettuccini Carbonara, made from fresh spinach. The French Baker has over 30 branches in and around Metro Manila, including Pampanga, Dasmariñas, Metro Cebu, the new SM Clark and SM Mall of Asia.

KIMPURA offers its sushi sashimi selections at a 20 percent discount July 14-31. Choices are sashimi and sushi combinations, sashimi, *nigiri* sushi, *maki mono*, and *temaki*. Kimpura has been serving fine authentic Japanese dishes for over 35 years. Open daily for lunch and dinner, the restaurant has two outlets at 2/L, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati (tel. 8932307, 8924456), and Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan (7218816, 7218869).

DININ

INTERCONTINENTAL Manila presents Spanish food festival, "Flavors of Barcelona July 19-31. Diners will have the chance to win round trip tickets for two to Barcelona, courtesy of Singapore Airlines or a Mediterranean cruise for two from Princess Cruises. Meanwhile, Gambrinus now serves continental breakfast, 7-11:30 a.m., for P560+ per person. Executive chef Patrick Fournes presents a la carte Magnificent 8 Gourmet sandwiches consisting of Chicken Liver Pate, Chili Tuna and Melted Gruyere Cheese, Tomato and Buffalo Mozzarella, Smoked Chicken Breast, Chicken BBQ, Salmon Rillette, Beef Burger and Club Sandwich. Call 8159711.

SOMETHIN' Fishy presents new Japanese bento box at P275. Choices include Sukiyaki, Ebi Tempura Salmon Teppan, Beef Teriyaki, Tonkatsu, Tenderloin Steak, Yakitori and Kani Bacon bento boxes. Also available are Japanese Hunger Buster Platters at P150. The ongoing Swordfish Festival offers Sizzling or Grilled Swordfish Steak, Swordfish Steak in Black Bean Sauce, Fried Swordfish with Somethin' Fishy Sauce and Swordfish Skewers at half off their regular prices. Located at Units B2 and B3, Eastwood City walk, QC, Call 4212121.

DUSIT Hotel Nikko's Fiesta San Miguel presents "Pinoy Hot Pot." The Seafood Hot Pot costs P7

Cooking demo in CDO

MOBILE KUSINA AT THE MALL WILL PRESent "Learn, Cook and Earn," a free cooking demonstration on July 29, 1-4 p.m., at the Activity Center of SM Cagayan de Oro City. Chef Candy Lu of Candy's Café will share recipes for caterers or food kiosk operators. The session will also cover the basics of food costing and others.

Exchange three empty wrappers of Magnolia, Monterey and Purefoods Hormel for an admission ticket at the venue.

Mobile Kusina at the Mall is sponsored by Monterey, Dari Creme Classic, Magnolia Quickmelt Cheese, Purefoods Chunkee Corned Beef, Magnolia Chicken, Magnolia Nutri Oil and Purefoods Supremo Vinegar. Co-sponsors are SM Supermalls, Glad Wraps, GE Appliances, Ariston and Sunnex Cookware. My Great Food Club members are encouraged to attend.

Call 6322000, 6719876 locals 2771, 402, 404 and 405 or log on to www.mygreatfood.com.

CLASSES

Seminars on cooking, food serving

Maya Kitchen will conduct the Waitering and Bartending seminar on July 15, 22 and 29, 2-6 p.m. The course covers waitering etiquette, table setup, bussing out, napkin folding and skirting; classification of wine and spirits, types of glasses, mixing and serving of drinks, with special *pulutan* recipes as a bonus.

Maya will also conduct the four-day "Basic Culinary," July 18-21, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., that will cover, among other things, proper hygiene, sanitation and safety; and nutrition and nutritional cooking.

"Meringue Delights," to be conducted July 22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., will cover Sansrival, Sylvannas, Brazo de Mercedes, etc.

"Fundamentals of Bakery Production" will be offered on July 25-28, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. It offers, among others, hands-on introduction on bakeshop specialties.

"Advanced Cooking" will be held July 25-28, 2-6 p.m. It will cover advanced techniques for food safety, etc.

"Free Baking Demo" will be held July 28, 4-5 p.m. It will include baking business, product application with Maya Mixes, etc. Pre-registration is required. Present three empty packages of any Maya Hotcake or Hotcake Mixes.

"Snack Meals" will be tackled July 29, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesday-Saturday), 8/F, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City, or call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108. E-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph.

Registration ongoing for seminar

Registration for ProActive Center's "Managing a Restaurant/Canteen Seminar-Workshop" and the "Managing a Catering Business Workshop" is ongoing.

Call 6673369 or 0915-4315375. Seminar fee is inclusive of manual and handouts, workshop materials, and certificate of completion.

Workshops will cover planning the concept, menu, location, layout and equipment; hygiene and sanitation; human resource development; costing, pricing and cost control among others.

Garlic dishes and kebabs

The Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts will conduct the following classes:

July 14—Garlic '06 (all new): Homemade Cheese and Garlic Bread, Roasted Garlic Soup, Mixed Greens and Cold Cut Salad with Fried Caesar Dressing, Roasted Garlic and Lobster Pasta, Braised Lamb in Garlic, Fish in Garlic Tomato Sauce, Sun-dried Tomato and Garlic Roast Chicken

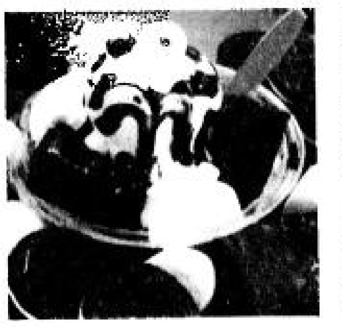
July 15—Wonderful Chicken Recipes (all new): Corn Bread Chicken, Citrus Infused Tea Smoked Hainanese Style Chicken with Lemon Grass Rice, Clay Pot Chicken, Grand Marnier Lacquered Chicken, Curry Roast; side dishes

July 17—Kebabs '06 (all new): Kebabs of Beef Wrapped in Angus Fat, Best Ever Lamb Shish Kebab, Butter Chicken Kebabs, Mixed Vegetable Kebabs, Homemade Pita, salad rice and sauces

July 19—Havana (all new): Authentic Arroz a la Cubana, Prawns Cubana in Rum and Sugar Glaze, Chicken with Bananas (Pollo con Platanos), Rabo Encendido (Ox Tail Stew), Beans and Rice, Cuban-style Flan

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162.

Jorge Araneta says they just had to get the best and the biggest ice cream chain in the world



scene for two years, is now at the Food Express, 3/L, Gateway Mall. It has a bigger customer counter and a wider selection of ice creams.

DQ also brought in Orange Julius for its fruit smoothies and gourmet hotdog products.

Justin Holtkamp, director of international marketing of American Dairy Queen Corporation, said: "DQ operates in 22 countries, but Asia-Pacific, led by Thailand with over 180 stores, is our biggest market. China comes next with 65 stores. Hopefully, the Philippines will join the (leaders)."

Satisfying treats

DQ has been making cold treats since 1940s in Kankakee, Illinois.

The Blizzard—ice cream with premium cookies and candy bits blended together—has become the top seller since it was put on the menu in 1985. The most popular Blizzard flavors include Oreo Cookies, chocolate-chip cookie dough, M&M's, Reese's Peanut Butter Cup and Butterfinger.

"Ice cream on cone is plain ice cream. Sundae has chocolate or strawberry syrup on top. Blizzard is ice cream and cookies mixed all the way through and that's what makes it unique. It is served upside down to show how thick our ice cream is. And we add very large cookie and fruit pieces so with every bite you get the real flavor," Holtkamp said.

DQ's Blizzard has hundreds of different flavors globally. But, for the local market, DQ offers only a dozen flavor initially.

"We put the ones that we think are the best and especially formulated for the local taste. Eventually, we will bring in new and exotic flavors like cheesecake Blizzard, different chocolate chips, fruit toppings, branded cookies and candies. Some will stay on the menu, some (will be available) for only a limited time," Holtkamp added.

Aside from Blizzard, Dairy Queen also offers ice cream in waffle cones and bowls, lattes, Dilly Bars (ice cream on stick) and sundaes. Also on the menu are Peanut Buster Parfait, a combination of creamy smooth DQ soft-serve ice cream with peanuts and layered hot fudge; Banana Split, soft-serve covered in strawberry, pineapple and chocolate toppings, with whipped cream, arranged between two pieces of sweet banana; Pecan Mudslide, a layered concoction of thick DQ soft-serve, sweet caramel, rich fudge and crunchy pecans; and Moolate, a rich coffee and crushed ice blended with thick and creamy DQ soft-serve ice cream.

"Most ice-blended coffee beverages are just ice and coffee mixed together," said Holtkamp. "Our Moolate is a mix of ice, coffee and ice cream so it (is a) smoother, delicious cold coffee beverage."

The health conscious may be happy to know DQ ice cream is actually low in fat. It is 94-percent fat-free. "If you (only) have an ice cream, it's (either) fat-free or low-fat. It's the flavoring and other add-ons that increase the calories," Holtkamp said.

DQ ice creams are made fresh every day. A machine behind the counter constantly churns out ice cream. At the moment, milk and cream come in from Thailand.

But Holtkamp said, "As we add locations, we will be sourcing our dairy products in the Philippines. One of our goals is to support the Philippine economy. So far, some fruits are sourced locally, such as bananas and oranges."

Available Orange Julius products include Julius Originals, classic smoothies blended and made with real fruits to create a smooth, rich and creamy drink.

The Orange Julius chain, maker of popular fruit drinks for nearly 80 years, was bought by IDQ in 1987. After the purchase, IDQ included Orange Julius drinks in many Dairy Queen stores.

and congee

G OUT

per person and the Meat Hot Pot, P650+ per person. Enjoy unlimited servings of fresh brewed beer 5:30-9 p.m. for only P350 net per person. Benkay's chef, Yoshiaki Tomiyama, presents rice toppings for the month of July, ranging from meat to seafood items. Each order is served with an appetizer, pickles, miso soup and dessert. Benjarong's chef Tun offers five a la carte items with authentic Thai salad creations until July 23. Call 8673333.

MANDARIN Oriental's Tin Hau introduces new a la carte and set menus—from Chinese roasts, dried seafood varieties and abalone, live and fresh seafood, meat poultry, noodles and rice to vegetarian dishes. A la carte dishes and set menus are available daily for lunch, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; dinner, 6:30-10:30 p.m. Paseo Uno features special lunch at P980+ (adult), P510+ (kids 5-12 years old), Monday-Saturday, until Aug. 31. Diners can enjoy international and Asian specialties. Seafood specialties are available every Friday. Paseo Uno is open 5-10:30 a.m. for breakfast; 12-2:30 p.m. for lunch; 3-4 p.m. for snack; and 6 p.m.-12 mn for dinner. Call 7508888.

THE RICHMONDE Grill features a caravan of Penang dishes until July 23. The Penang Food Caravan is priced at P800 net per person, inclusive of coffee or tea. Lunch buffet is served every Sunday until Friday, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 6387777 loc. 3409.

MANILA Pavilion's Seasons serves the freshest sushi and maki rolls. Smorgasbord is priced at P900+ per person. Lunch buffet is from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Dinner, 6:30 -10:30 p.m. Call 5261212 loc. 2818.

THE BELLEVUE Hotel has opened a new Pastry Corner which features coffee concoctions, homemade cakes, breads and *ube ensaymadas*. Discounts on selected pastries and breads are available daily. Call 7718181.

HYATT Regency Manila's Café Al Fresco features "Pasta and Pizza Parade" until July 22. The festival features an array of real Italian pizza. Call 8078019.

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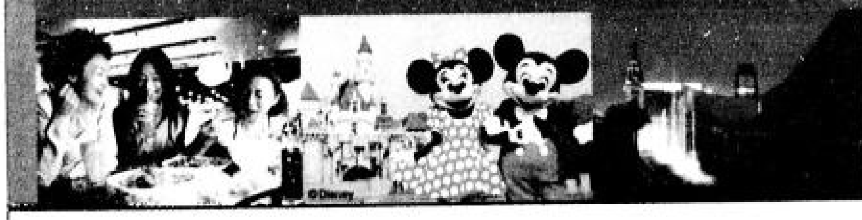

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A way with words

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

THE MUSEO PUNTONG BATANGAN, the Batangas museum in the capital city, will be inaugurated mid-July but we recently had a chance to preview it.

We had to don masks so we would not inhale fumes from paint and dust from the carpentry work. We were asked to imagine huge photos that had not been put up and recorded voices not yet in place.

Anyone who has heard a Batangueño speak will know what the word *punto* means—the intonation, as well as the words.

Marian Pastor Roces, the curator and writer, explained that the focus of the *museo* was oral language. Her last work was for the Philippine Pavilion of the World Expo 2005 in Japan where she, together with architect Ed Calma, was awarded the Gold Prize for the Best Designed Pavilion, besting more than 100 countries.

Her experience includes managing several exhibits, some for the National Museum, the Rizal Shrine, the Negros Museum. And now, for her home province, she has conceptualized a museum that will be the first of its kind.

History in 14 words

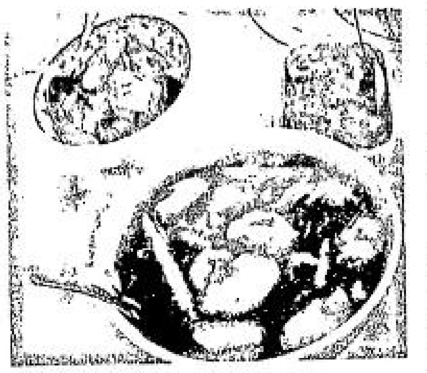
Fourteen words in Batangas Tagalog were selected to show the province's history and culture. Those of us on that early tour expected "*ala ey*" and "*gai*" to be among those but the familiar expressions were not.

Still, the words could be heard in the audio-visual room, an area called Punto where one could hear the Batangueño way of speaking.

The chosen words are displayed in huge letters over specific sections. What some represented were easy to guess. *Simba* is for religious rites. *Awit* is for the songs.

Others had to be explained. *Baon* should have the accent on the last syllable because it indicates something buried. A panoramic photograph of a field with trees, an old upturned banca and an overgrowth of plants look fascinating until you learn it's the site of a mass burial of both cholera victims generations ago and those killed during the Filipino-American war in the early 1900s.

Kalumpang is not only the name of the river one crosses to go in or out of the city but is also a tree that figured in fertility rites of the ancient people of Batangas. The tree is now gone in Batangas, except for the preserved trunk in the museum.



BULANGLANG accompanied by Batangas *adobo* and *guinataang hito*

Batangas, by the way, gets its name from another tree, the *batang*. Apparently Batangas was a forested area before the population and progress boom.

Because food is part of culture, there is the word *bulanglang* to indicate the cooking exhibit area.

Bulanglang is a simple dish of several vegetables boiled together in rice washing and flavored subtly with salt, ginger and sometimes with *calamansi* juice. A slightly sweet taste is an indication that the vegetables are fresh, usually taken from a backyard plot. Sometimes, the *bulanglang* can comprise of only one vegetable like the *kibal*, short string beans that have been likened to the French *haricot vert* (green bean).

Different names

Bulanglang is called by different names in other places. It's *dinendeng* in the Ilocos, *laswa* in Negros and Iloilo, and *lawot-lawot* in Leyte. The boiled vegetable dish is served with some broth but is not soup.

The *bulanglang* was what we had for lunch, cut *patola* pieces floating on top. I must confess that the invitation to the museum was not as attractive as the promise of eating at the ancestral home of the Pastors, the huge clan to which Marian belongs.

We waited for lunch at the *sala*. We thought the old chairs were ergonomically designed as they were so comfortable. While we discussed Batangas heritage, as well as the bullet meant for the visiting Governor General William Howard Taft that was still lodged in one of the ancestral house's jambs, we were entertained with an impromptu piano concerto by Antonio Pastor.

THE TABLE setting at the Pastor ancestral home

A peek into the outdoor kitchen let us witness the cooks' preparation of the *kilawing baboy*. Boiled pork was cut into small pieces and flavored with a vinegar mixture. The difference is that pork and sometimes cow brain are added, all chopped up and mixed in. That makes for a richer *kilawing baboy*, as we found out when we were called to the table.

The menu also included Batangas *adobo*, pork cooked in the usual way but colored orange with *achuete* (annatto). *Hito* (catfish) was cooked in coconut milk. And the *pancit* had chopped *kamias* instead of *calamansi* to provide the sour flavor.

Fiesta colors

The fish, a *talakitok*, was steamed and then dressed up the way it's done in fiestas. That would be mayonnaise on top and then red and green bell pepper, and hard-boiled egg, yolks and whites separated, all chopped and arranged in bands by color.

In "The Alice B. Toklas Cookbook," the author wrote about decorating the fish that way for Pablo Picasso, only using mayonnaise made red with tomato paste, eggs in the same way, truffles and chopped herbs. When the Spanish artist saw the fish done so, he said it should have been for Henri Matisse, the French artist known for his use of colors.

Our dessert was *saba* banana sweetened with sugar and coconut milk. The resulting sauce was very much like caramel and perfect with the vanilla ice cream that was served with the fruit.

And so fortified, we went to visit the museum. Marian said to return for the formal opening. And, as if she read our mind, she said she would be serving food again on that day.

E-mail author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com.

Chinese cuisine and beyond

SIOPAO, SWEET AND SOUR PORK, fried rice—we've all enjoyed these Chinese favorites, whether at a dimsum counter or lauriat-style at a grand old Chinese restaurant. These days, many Chinese restaurants are going beyond the tried and tested to introduce innovative concepts in Chinese dining. But it all started in Binondo where the Ilang-Ilang Restaurant first opened almost 100 years ago under the same ownership.

Find out more about Chinese food—from recipes to kitchen equipment—from the latest issue of F&B World Magazine now available in newsstands around the country for P125.

F&B World is the country's only trade magazine for the foodservice industry, read by F&B professionals, entrepreneurs and aspiring culinary students. In this latest issue, learn about food-presentation trends, valuable tips in customer service, food safety in the kitchen and check out the latest software to manage your operations.

Inside F&B World is Baking Press Magazine, the country's first and only publication dedicated to baking, pastry and confectionary arts. The latest issue is all about bread, from *pugon*-style *pan de sal* at Pan de Manila to European specialty breads at The French Baker. Regular contributors Heny Sison, Johnlu Koa of The French Baker, Penk Ching, chef Dennis Hipolito and chef Ernie Babaran share their considerable expertise in a variety of topics.

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